YOUR GUIDE FOR HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS, PG 31-47

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Homes Pg 27
Designers show how to create DIY holiday decor

A white Christmas, guaranteed

WEATHER Just like the ones you used to know, this Christmas will be white.

That's according to an Environment Canada forecast that calls for two more snow dumps by the end of the weekend and temperatures cold enough to keep the flakes on the ground for Dec. 25.

Senior climatologist David Phillips' standard for a white Christmas calls for at least two centimetres of snow on the ground at 7 a.m.

"If not, no cigar," he said. "In England, if a weather guy sees a snowflake, they call it a white Christmas. We have standards in this country."

Phillips predicted 15 to 20 centimetres around Friday and possibly 10 to 15 centimetres more on Sunday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports pg 24

Argos legend Joe (King) Krol dies

Food pg 48

Sticky toffee pudding

ShareYourViews
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COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bailey hangs out at a shelter yesterday. Bailey was one of eight dogs saved from the fire at the Durham Region Humane Society shelter in Oshawa. He was found just three days ago, tied to a fence.

Fire kills cats, dogs

8 dogs, 2 cats saved as blaze destroys animal shelter

An early morning fire yesterday destroyed Durham Region Humane Society's shelter and claimed the lives of 150 cats, three dogs and several rabbits and rodents.

Eight dogs, two cats and a rat named Baby Barnard were rescued by firefighters before the inferno engulfed the overcrowded shelter in a rundown industrial building in south Oshawa. The victims perished from smoke inhalation.

"We could hear the dogs barking when we got there," said platoon chief Neil Crouter of Oshawa Fire Services. "There were leashes inside the door so the firefighters grabbed them, then grabbed the dogs and handed them to police at the door."

"We could hear the dogs barking when we got there. There were leashes inside the door so the firefighters grabbed them, then grabbed the dogs and handed them to police at the door."
Platoon chief Neil Crouter

Crouter said the dogs were further away from the fire, which was raging in the front part of the building, and that firefighters had barely enough time to grab a couple cats in cages, he said. The other cats were "already gone," overcome by smoke long before the flames reached them, he said. "At least they were asleep and didn't feel anything."

Police officers comforted the rescued animals and kept them warm in their cruisers while firefighters battled the blaze, which broke out around 2:15 a.m.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated. Damage to the 2,400-square-foot facility on Waterloo Street is estimated at $250,000.

Two sobbing teenagers placed carnations in front of the building's charred remains as shelter employees and volunteers gathered to grieve the lost creatures.

The Durham organization will temporarily have to work out of the Oshawa Animal Services' Farewell Street office.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier stands up to big banks

Premier Dalton McGuinty is refusing to slash corporate taxes to help the banks, instead saying they should cut their interest rates to aid consumers.

His shot at the Canadian Bankers Association came after it urged his government to cut corporate taxes in next year's budget or risk losing high-paying financial sector jobs to other jurisdictions as the recession deepens.

It's not possible to cut taxes further right now, McGuinty said.

"We're gonna have to provide some support to the auto sector, we're going to have to provide some stimulus to this economy," he said in response to the bank group's call to cut the corporate tax rate to 10 per cent from 14.

That would cost the provincial treasury $2.5 billion.

"You're talking about a pretty significant deficit," McGuinty warned the bankers. "Getting into deficit is no problem. Getting out is the challenge, so we want to make sure we don't get in so deep it becomes just extraordinarily difficult to get ourselves out of that predicament."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bailout

- The proposed $3.4-billion auto industry bailout from Ontario and Ottawa is just the beginning of help for the troubled Detroit Three, Premier Dalton McGuinty acknowledged yesterday.

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Four injured in Mississauga crash
A Mississauga crash has sent a Hamilton man to hospital with life-threatening injuries. The 52-year-old was heading westbound on the Highway 403 collector lanes near Cawthra Road when he veered off the road and "rolled at least twice," said Const. Graham Williamson of the Ontario Provincial Police. The driver's three passengers received minor injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Police to get contract today

After a gruelling 13 months of back and forth, the Toronto police and its board will get a contract today, officials said yesterday. The contract comes at the conclusion of binding arbitration that began in early September, following nine months of negotiations this year in what became a protracted battle between the Toronto Police Association and the board. Details of the contract have been withheld until its release today. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Movies
Metro reviews Will Smith's new film, Seven Pounds

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Boy who gave bone marrow to save his brother hailed as a hero at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video New spy drones arrive in Afghanistan to help keep soldiers safe at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Jim Flaherty vows to work with the provinces to revive the economy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries
Ontario 49: 1, 4, 18, 39, 43 & 47 Bonus 41
Other lottery results unavailable at press time.

TTC lines up priorities

Funding not yet attached to Yonge line extension

It's not that the TTC doesn't want to extend the Yonge subway line 6.8 kilometres into York Region. It's just that Toronto doesn't want it built at the expense of the city's other priorities.

After listening to a lengthy update yesterday on the $2.4-billion plans for the extension from Finch station to Richmond Hill Centre, councillors on the Toronto Transit Commission are still looking for projected ridership when the proposed extension opens — as soon as 2017.

There are various projections for ridership in 2031, but they're based on potential intensification around some proposed stations, and the existing cost estimates don't take into account items such as train yards and expanding platform capacity at Bloor station.

Dollar for dollar, the TTC's Transit City light-rail plan will serve more riders than a subway extension, said TTC chair Adam Giambrone. Unlike the Spadina extension, funding is not yet attached to the Yonge extension.

The $2.4 billion estimated cost could climb as high as $4 billion, said Giambrone.

But the project is on the Metrolinx list of priorities anticipated to get part of the $11.5 billion the province has pledged to transit by 2020. Yesterday's TTC report says only $5 million is expected for the Yonge extension in the province's spring budget.

"We have the capacity to do (multiple projects), but we have to make sure the funding's in place. I can't run the system on a hope and prayer. I have to have committed capital dollars," Giambrone said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Light-rail lines

- The first three of seven Transit City light-rail lines into the suburbs also have been designated as Metrolinx priorities, but some councillors fear the money won't suffice for everything on that list.

Snow **You ain't seen nothin' yet**

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A man shovels a walkway yesterday on Silverbirch Avenue in the Beach. Enjoy the sun today as Environment Canada warns a severe snowstorm is expected to drop on the city tomorrow.

Teen crushed by giant slate slab

DEATH A 17-year-old boy was killed Tuesday after being crushed by a massive sheet of slate.

Gary Moreira's parents came home from a Christmas concert and found their son dead in the basement. Three slate pieces weighing 350 pounds were for a pool table top that the boy's father said he planned to make himself.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit ready for winter: TTC officials

WEATHER Last winter's record snowfalls taught the TTC a few things about ensuring service through bad weather, transit officials said yesterday.

As winter threatens to level another blast tomorrow, the TTC says it has strengthened its bonds with the Toronto Parking Authority.

A TTC supervisor who roves the city in a car responding to emergencies is now being paired with a parking official who can immediately dispatch tow trucks to remove vehicles blocking streetcar tracks, said Rick Cornacchia, general manager of TTC operations. There will also be twice as many "storm trains" this year; the eight trains that dispense glycol on the tracks, keeping the line from icing up.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

METROLINX Regional transit agency Metrolinx says it and 12 cities have placed an order for the largest collective bus purchase in Ontario history. The Crown Corporation says the bus orders, with New Flyer Industries Canada and City View Bus Sales, could be valued at up to roughly $70 million.

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Boy, 4, airlifted to hospital after being thrown from vehicle

A 4-year-old boy was airlifted to hospital with life-threatening injuries following a car crash in Markham. The boy was thrown from the vehicle and his one-year-old sibling was also hurt. Traffic Sgt. Tim Kuttschrutter of the York regional police said the children were not properly restrained. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Even lawyers help deliver

As the holidays near, it's all hands on deck in the FedEx warehouse

For FedEx, the holiday season is the busiest of the year, a time when even company lawyers sort packages.

As the courier giant counts down to Dec. 22, its peak day, executives of all types will work the conveyor belts in the company's Mississauga warehouse, sorting thousands of parcels as they're unloaded from the company's wide-bodied jets.

"It's a busy time and I think it's important for executives to make sure they understand what happens on the front lines," says Pina Starnino, vice-president of operations. But no arm-twisting is involved. "People are happy to come and do it."

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ace Campbell, a cargo handler at Toronto's Fed Ex hub, moves packages just taken off of an international flight and places them onto belts in the input area on Tuesday.

On this morning, the 20-year FedEx veteran has come to the warehouse to greet employees. It's just after 6 a.m., but already two planes carrying international shipments are parked outside the three-storey warehouse. Workers unload giant metal containers onto a lift, which lowers it to the ground. A truck whisks the container, one of 35 on each plane, into the warehouse.

By 7 a.m., the packages are re-sorted according to final destination. The company's promise of a 9 a.m. delivery means the operation has to run like a machine.

In the Mississauga warehouse, brokers work overnight, electronically submitting waybill information to Canada Customs. When employees scan a package that hasn't cleared, it's sent via conveyor up to the third floor, to Customs officers. On the second floor, bags of FedEx envelopes arrive via conveyor belt and are sorted.

By 8 a.m., it's all over. Twelve hours from now, activity in the Mississauga warehouse will ramp up again as employees go through a similar routine to send out domestic parcels.

"When you're really organized and things are smooth, you don't feel that stress," Starnino says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peak day total

- FedEx moved 11 million packages around the world on its busiest day last year, more than 50 per cent above its daily average.
- The company won't speculate on what that number will be this year. The economy has "been challenging," says Pina Starnino, vice-president of operations. "Obviously we've been impacted."

Striking York staff vow to continue camp-out

PROTEST Striking teaching assistants and their student supporters vow to stay camped around the clock outside the office of the York University president until he meets with them and promises to host a public forum on the strike in January.

Armed with sleeping bags, 20 to 30 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees 3903 and some student supporters have occupied the corridor outside the office of president Mamdouh Shoukri since Monday. They are asking for a meeting.

"We've seen the president on campus, but he hasn't met with us and our plan is to hang in until he does." Gabrielle Gerin

"We've seen the president on campus, but he hasn't met with us and our plan is to hang in until he does," said teaching assistant Gabrielle Gerin, a graduate student in political science.

With no talks in sight and the first term already destined to drag into the new year, nearly 50,000 students at Canada's third-largest university have little hope of a quick end to the strike that has shut down classes since Nov. 6.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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News in brief

COTA The City of Toronto Act is due for an official review in coming weeks, but both provincial and city officials are hinting that radical changes won't likely be in the works. The process is unlikely to include any public hearings, though a community group and some councillors say they'd like a more open review of the act, which granted Toronto certain powers unique among Ontario municipalities.

KENK Embattled bike shop owner Igor Kenk could be spending Christmas in the Don Jail. A dishevelled Kenk, slightly limping and bearing a facial scratch, remained seated during his hearing yesterday before Justice Bruno Cavion at Old City Hall. He was remanded into custody after he was charged with assault Sunday. Kenk is accused of swinging a pipe at the owners of a garage during a dispute.

HALTON Halton residents will see a 2.2 per cent property tax increase in 2009 to pay for regional services, including police. The increase, approved yesterday, totals $28.61 on a home assessed at $300,000. Residents will also pay 6.7 per cent more for water, an increase of $48.51 for a household consuming 300 cubic metres annually, the region said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Police seek help in finding missing kid
Peel regional police are asking for assistance in locating a missing 12-year-old Mississauga boy. Gabriel Owusu was last seen Sunday at 9 p.m. when he left his family's home. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Judge slams secrecy rule

COURT A senior judge has asked the attorney general's ministry to reverse its new policy of keeping secret the locations of youth trials at Toronto's top criminal courthouse.

Ontario Superior Court Justice John McMahon told lawyers in court yesterday that he has contacted officials to complain about recent changes that bar the public from finding out in which courtrooms specific youth trials are being held.

The judge made his remarks in response to a complaint by defence lawyer Marshall Sack, who is representing a teen charged with first-degree murder in the New Year's Day 2008 stabbing of 14-year-old Stefanie Rengel.

In an e-mail yesterday, ministry spokesperson Brendan Crawley said the changes at the courthouse are due to the way the lists are printed.

"We're presently working ... on this issue and looking to have this resolved within the week."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PATRICK DELI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Five-year-old Daniel Badmus holds a teddy bear at a news conference in Toronto yesterday. Daniel recently donated his bone marrow to save his brother John's life.

Kid turns hero for sick sibling

Four-year-old John Badmus needed a hero to help him survive his battle with a painful blood disorder and he found one in his older brother, who gave up part of his bone marrow to cure him.

Even as he was being recognized for his bravery yesterday, Daniel Badmus, 5, seemed unaware that his gesture may well have saved his brother's life.

Bouncing on his father's knee and waving for the cameras, Daniel hugged the military fatigues-clad teddy bear he was given by the Canadian Armed Forces.

John Badmus spent most of his life in and out of hospitals after being diagnosed with a severe case of sickle cell disease.

"It's really very traumatic to have a child with sickle cell," said dad David Badmus at an event at the Ontario legislature to honour Daniel.

"I've never yet met anyone so young who has done so much."
Cpt. Rick Leswick

Daniel donated his bone marrow on Oct. 24 — making him part of the first bone marrow transplant for a sickle cell patient at Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital.

His brother is still being treated in hospital but has responded well and is expected to recover.

"In more than 30 years of service to the Canadian Forces, I've had the pleasure and the privilege of encountering many, many heroes," Cpt. Rick Leswick, commanding officer of the 709 army cadet core in Toronto. "However, I've never yet met anyone so young who has done so much." THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRASH Two people are in critical condition following an accident this afternoon. The three-car collision happened at around 12:40 p.m. at Kennedy Rd. and McNicoll Ave. Following the accident one person was airlifted to hospital with life-threatening injuries. Another person was brought to the Sunnybrook trauma centre. Three other people suffered non-life threatening injuries.

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Foreign affairs minister worried

Canada's foreign affairs minister Lawrence Cannon says he still has no information about two Canadians who have disappeared in Niger. He said he's worried about Canadians Robert Fowler, a United Nations special envoy, and Louis Guay. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Iggy's new book

A family memoir by new Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff entitled True Patriot Love: Four Generations in Search of Canada will be released next April. The book begins with the story of Ignatieff's great-grandfather who set out in 1872 with Sir Sandford Fleming.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whistler **Tower collapse**

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Christine Parkinson, left, and her friend Sue Makinson-Sanders were trapped in the car above for nearly three hours after a gondola tower partially collapsed Tuesday at a Whistler, B.C., resort.

News in brief

HEALTH Controversial drug-eluting stents are actually safer than the standard alternative a year after insertion, a new Alberta study of 6,400 Alberta patients says. The drug-coated mesh tubes have previously sparked worries they can cause lethal blood clots.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty talks economic uncertainy with provinces

Just talk: That's what Ontario's Dwight Duncan says of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's new-found commitment to revive the economy with a package of major government spending initiatives.

"This should have been started by the federal government months ago. They've missed the mark."
Dwight Duncan

Duncan, who met yesterday with Flaherty and other provincial treasurers to discuss the upcoming federal budget, said he is relieved the Harper government is finally admitting that the economy is heading into a recession and needs major new assistance from Ottawa.

But action is long overdue and won't be forthcoming until the federal budget in late January, he said.

"This should have been started by the federal government months ago. They've missed the mark," he said.

The ministers heard Flaherty admit for the first time that Ottawa would run a budget deficit in 2009 of at least $5 billion.

Flaherty said Ottawa must open its coffers to pump money into the economy to soften the impact of the recession but said it is too early to say how big the planned stimulus package would be.

Duncan welcomed the agreement in principle on federal-provincial action. But "we really didn't deal with what I would call the substantive, tough issues," the Ontario finance minister told the media.

On the issue of helping the auto industry, the assembled ministers backed the commitment by the Harper government and Premier Dalton McGuinty to inject an estimated $3.4 billion into the struggling Big Three Canadian auto giants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mental illness stigma plagues armed forces

REPORT It took Chuck Marazzo a long time to recover from those words.

After family members told the London area man he had changed from the fun-loving guy he used to be, Marazzo told his superior in the army about his angry outbursts. He was released in 1997 from the Canadian Forces and told he was "weak."

The stigma surrounding mental illness remains one of the greatest challenges facing the Canadian Forces today, the military ombudsman said in a report on operational stress injuries released yesterday.

The report said some military personnel are not diagnosed properly or getting the treatment they need.

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Teachers group sued
BCE Inc. has sued the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan for a $1.2-billion break fee for failing to close a deal with the company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM gives Ontario more House seats

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is giving Premier Dalton McGuinty an early holiday gift — greater representation for Ontario in the Commons.

In a seasonal change of heart from his previous Grinchlike stance, Harper has privately assured McGuinty that Ontario would not be short-changed when the government introduces seat redistribution legislation in the new year.

"I spoke to him about that and I think we've ... fixed it," McGuinty blurted out to surprised reporters yesterday.

"I think there was a sense that it was the right thing to do."

Asked if he was getting what Ontario wanted — 21 additional seats to complement the existing 106 in the 308-member Commons — the premier said: "Yeah, on the basis of that conversation, yes. It'll be the necessary proportionality, whatever it should be."

> **"I think there was a sense that it was the right thing to do."**
> Dalton McGuinty

Under Harper's previous legislation, which died on the order paper before the Oct. 14 federal election, B.C. would have gained seven seats and Alberta five, but Ontario would have received only 10 — less than half the 21 it should be entitled to due to rising population numbers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

War resister faces deportation on Christmas Eve

REMOVAL The War Resisters Support Campaign says a former U.S. soldier living in Nanaimo, B.C., has been told he must leave Canada by Dec. 24 or face removal by force. Cliff Cornell, originally from Arkansas, arrived in Canada in January 2005 after refusing to deploy to Iraq, and he now works as an assistant manager of a retail store.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SCANDAL Yet another person is facing criminal charges in connection with the federal sponsorship scandal. Quebec provincial police said former communications executive Gilles-Andre Gosselin has been sent a summons to appear in court on 19 fraud-related offences. Gosselin billed the government for 3,673 hours of work in 1997.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CPR trains collide along Mississippi River

Two Canadian Pacific freight trains collided early yesterday, derailing 40 cars and sending an engine and some railcars plunging into the Mississippi River, authorities said. No serious injuries were reported. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario to beef up dental plan for kids

Ontario is expected to extend emergency dental care for underprivileged children up to age 18 as part of the government's anti-poverty strategy.

Today at the Scarborough Civic Centre, Children and Youth Services Minister Deb Matthews and Health Promotion Minister Margarett Best are expected to offer details on the expansion of the Children in Need of Treatment program beyond the current cut-off of 13 years of age.

Two weeks ago, the Ontario government announced a long-awaited anti-poverty strategy to cut child poverty by 25 per cent in five years. In the 2008 budget, the province announced it would invest $45 million annually to provide dental care to low-income Ontarians.

But Ontario's dentists do not feel expanding the dental program goes far enough. "This program is broken. It doesn't include prevention," said dentist and Ontario Dental Association president Dr. Larry Levin.

"This program is broken. It doesn't include prevention."
Dr. Larry Levin, Ontario Dental Association

For more than a decade, the dental association has expressed deep concern about the limitations of publicly funded dental programs. It says the Children in Need of Treatment program is only for those with identified dental conditions needing urgent care — large open lesions, dental pain or an oral infection — and by then the damage to kids' teeth is too late to correct. And children can only access the program if their parents sign a declaration stating the cost of necessary dental treatment would result in financial hardship.

Levin acknowledged there are "issues for certain" on how the program works internally that could be improved, but "the overriding concern is how do you create a future for our children better than the current one?" he asked.

Prevention practices, such as regular checkups, fluoride varnish and nutrition counselling, are important parts of caring for children's teeth and the government needs to act on them, said Levin, a dentist who practises in Hamilton.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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More therapy for chronic 9-1-1 caller

A Quebec judge still isn't sure a Montreal woman deserves only a suspended sentence for inundating 9-1-1 operators with a whopping 10,000 calls over a 15-month span.

Quebec court Judge Serge Boisvert said yesterday he is willing to give Marie-Eve Dean more time in therapy before handing down a sentence.

10,000 The number of 9-1-1 calls Marie-Eve Dean placed over a 15-month period.

A police investigation revealed that Dean, 23, and her ex-brother-in-law overwhelmed 9-1-1 operators with so many calls between January 2006 and April 2007 that on some days real emergency calls couldn't get through.

The Crown has said the acts were perpetrated in part due to a hatred for authority figures, including the police.

Boisvert said he wants Dean, who was convicted on mischief charges in October, to get more psychiatric help.

Dean, who is 21 weeks pregnant, started therapy at the end of October, about a week after Boisvert called her actions immature and irresponsible.

"There has been progress, serious progress that has satisfied Judge Boisvert," said Claude Boucher, Dean's lawyer.

Boucher said the therapy aims to curb Dean's anger towards society.

Boucher said Dean is committed to the therapy for 21 weeks, but he also emphasized that the co-accused in the case, Salim Omar Sheik Abuu, received a nine-month suspended sentence even though he made more than half the calls.

Boisvert responded there is no guarantee Dean would get the same sentence as her co-accused.

A report revealed that Dean was a high-risk to reoffend and Boisvert wasn't convinced that she'd owned up to her actions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. kidnapping sentencing postponed until February

CRIME The sentencing of three men convicted in the high-profile kidnapping of a Vancouver university student has been put off until February so a psychiatrist can examine one of them.

The sentences in the case of victim Graham McMynn were supposed to be passed yesterday but a lawyer received an adjournment on behalf of her client.

The lawyer for Jose Hernandez told B.C. Supreme Court Justice Arne Silverman she needs time for a psychiatrist to complete a report on her client.

The Crown did not oppose the application but prosecutor Steve Black noted it's a lengthy delay, given the trio was convicted in mid-October.

Hernandez and Anh The Nguyen were convicted of kidnapping and unlawful confinement while Sam Van Vu was found guilty of unlawful confinement but acquitted of kidnapping.

Hernandez and Nguyen face maximum sentences of life in prison while Vu could receive as much as 10 years.

Graham McMynn, son of a wealthy Vancouver businessman, was taken from his car at gunpoint in April 2006 and held for eight days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bush schedules lunch with Obama, ex-presidents

U.S. President George W. Bush is hosting a lunch Jan. 7 with president-elect Barack Obama and former presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush. The current president has made a smooth transition to the next administration a top priority as his term winds down. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

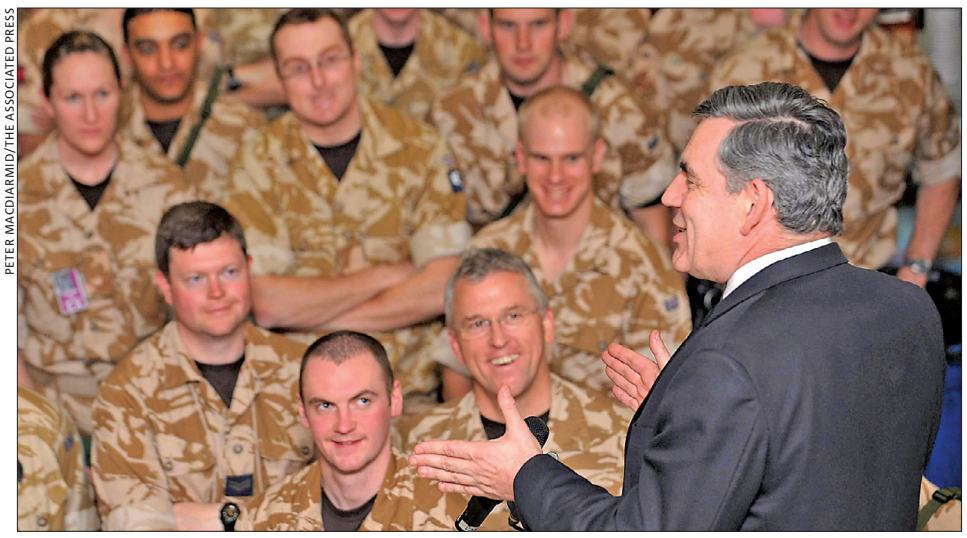
World

Obama named Person of the Year

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama has won another contest: He's been named Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2008. The magazine has named U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Gov. Sarah Palin and Chinese director Zhang Yimou as runners-up. Previous individual winners have included Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, Bono and President George W. Bush. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Britain plans Iraq pullout

Britain's prime minister announced yesterday that his country's soldiers will leave Iraq by the end of May, a move that will force the U.S. to send troops into the Shiite south to secure supply lines to the much larger American force.



PETER MACDIARMID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown addresses British troops yesterday at Basra Air Base in southern Iraq during his one-day visit.

Britain, with some 4,000 troops currently in Iraq, is the second-largest contributor to the international military coalition after the United States.

But the war has been extremely unpopular in Britain, and the end of the mission could be a political boon to Gordon Brown if he calls, as expected, a national election for June 4.

Britain had previously said the mission would conclude in the early summer, and Brown's statement appeared to accelerate that timetable.

More than 45,000 British troops took part in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, along with about 250,000 American troops. At least 173 British soldiers have died in Iraq, compared with more than 4,200 Americans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chaos erupts over shoe tosser in Iraqi parliament

GOVERNMENT Iraq's parliament was thrown into chaos yesterday over the jailing of a reporter who threw his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush, with legislators loyal to a radical anti-American cleric demanding his freedom.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi's bizarre act of defiance won the local reporter hero status in Iraq and throughout the Arab world.

Followers of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr as well as other Shiite and Sunni groups have staged demonstrations for the last three days demanding al-Zeidi's release.

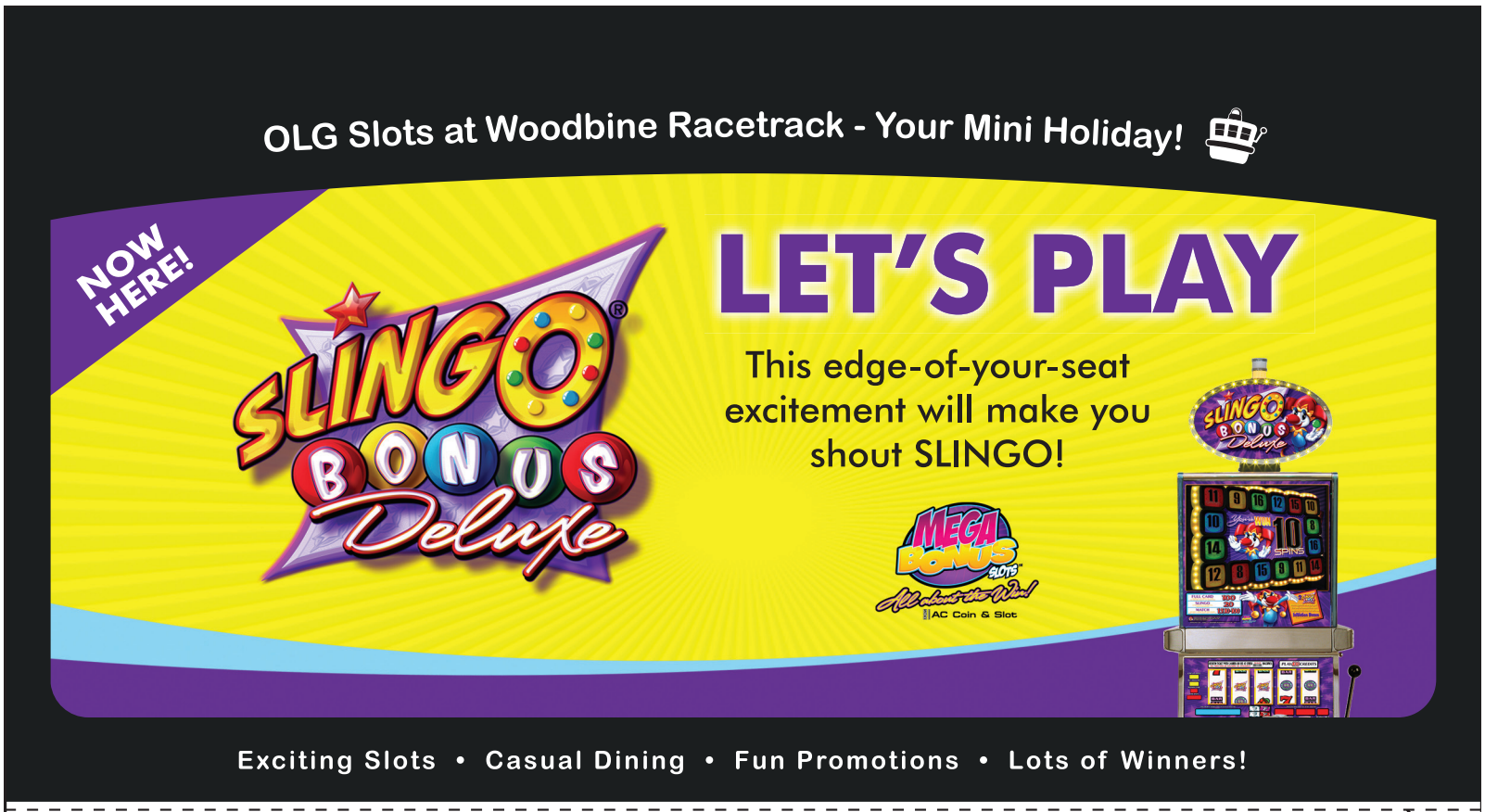
Yesterday, al-Sadr's supporters in parliament interrupted a session called to review a resolution calling for all non-U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq by the end of June.

Several legislators demanded that the session address al-Zeidi's case and allegations that he had been beaten in custody. Others shouted that the case was a matter for the courts, triggering a noisy argument, according to an adviser to parliament's deputy speaker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resignation

- With legislators screaming at one another, parliament speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani shouted: "There is no honour in leading this parliament and I announce my resignation."



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NASA says shuttles up for grabs

DISPLAYS NASA's soon-to-be-retired space shuttles are up for grabs.

The space agency says it's looking for ideas on where and how best to display its space shuttles once they stop flying in a few years.

It's put out a call to schools, science museums and "other appropriate organizations" that might be interested in showcasing one of the three remaining shuttles.

But beware — NASA estimates it will cost about $42 million US to get each shuttle ready and get it where it needs to go, and the final tab could end up much more.

The estimate includes $6 million to ferry the spaceship atop a modified jumbo jet to the closest major airport.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Destinations

- One space shuttle appears headed to the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. The remaining two would be placed in storage at Kennedy Space Center until their final homes are decided.

Ontario school boards said no.

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Alleged Mafia boss hangs himself in Sicilian jail

Police in Sicily say the alleged Mafia boss of a Palermo neighbourhood has hanged himself in jail, hours after he was arrested in a blitz against the Cosa Nostra gang. Authorities had ordered the sweeping raids to prevent what they said were mob efforts to rebuild Cosa Nostra. Some 90 suspects were arrested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court rejects effort to remove governor

Illinois Supreme Court yesterday denied an effort to remove Gov. Rod Blagojevich, rejecting what could have been the quickest way to force the Democrat from office.

The ruling came as the governor's lawyer challenged the strength of the corruption case against Blagojevich before a panel of legislators that is considering whether to recommend impeachment.

The state Supreme Court rejected without comment a challenge filed by state Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who is a top candidate for governor in 2010.

Lawyer on the offensive

- Blagojevich's lawyer, Ed Genson, attacked impeachment proceedings yesterday, questioning the committee's impartiality and complaining that the panel had not given the governor enough time to mount a defence.

It wasn't made clear whether the court turned down the case on its merits or on procedural grounds.

Blagojevich has been under siege since his arrest last week on charges that he tried to auction off Barack Obama's Senate seat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yahoo to shorten user activity logs

INTERNET Yahoo Inc. said yesterday that it will shorten the amount of time that it retains data about its users' online behaviour — including Internet search records — to three months from 13 months and expand the range of data that it "anonymizes" after that period.

The company's new privacy policy comes amid mounting concerns among regulators and legislators from Washington to Europe about how much data big Internet companies are collecting on their users and how that information is being used.

Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo also said it will expand the scope of data that it anonymizes to encompass not only search engine logs, but also page views, page clicks, ad views and ad clicks.

Yahoo will begin implementing the new policy next month and says it will be effective across all the company's services by mid-2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Details

- Under Yahoo's new policy, the company will strip out portions of users' IP addresses, alter small tracking files known as "cookies" and delete other potential personally identifiable information.

UN chief criticizes rights record

REVIEW UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon criticized international governments yesterday and said a year of multiple crises has put the world's human rights record on trial.

At a year-end news conference, the UN chief said 2009 "promises to be no less difficult" than 2008, with a worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the danger of anarchy in Somalia, a continuing global financial crisis and the need to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Ban said he has been frustrated by the failure to protect lives, and the lack of resources and political will to tackle important issues such as poverty, conflicts and climate change.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlement in fatal Big Dig lawsuit
A manslaughter charge is being dropped against a company charged in a fatal tunnel collapse after it agreed to pay to settle a lawsuit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kennedy confirms N.Y. Senate seat pursuit

Caroline Kennedy said publicly for the first time yesterday that she wants to be New York's next senator as she launched a tour of upstate cities to meet with politicians and power brokers.

DON HEUPEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caroline Kennedy listens to a reporter's question yesterday during a news conference in Buffalo, N.Y.

The daughter of assassinated president John F. Kennedy met with Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll and others as she began her campaign to be appointed to the seat held by Hillary Clinton, if Clinton is confirmed as president-elect Barack Obama's secretary of state.

"I just wanted to say, as some of you may have heard, I would be honoured to be considered for the position of U.S. senator," Kennedy said.

Gov. David Paterson will decide who gets the job. The new senator will have to run in 2010 to fill the last two years of Clinton's term and then run for a full term in 2012.

Kennedy's willingness to embrace the public life of a U.S. senator surprised some after her lifetime of carefully cultivated privacy. But she told a private group in Syracuse that she had been thinking about running for a Senate seat long before Clinton was picked as secretary of state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preparations for Obama inauguration underway

WASHINGTON Aretha Franklin will sing, Rev. Rick Warren will pray and more than 11,000 U.S. troops will be watching over inauguration ceremonies in case of an attack during president-elect Barack Obama's swearing-in on Jan. 20.

As many as four million visitors are expected to be on hand when Obama takes the noon-time oath from Chief Justice John Roberts on the steps of the Capitol.

Some 4,000 local police, 4,000 police from around the country and security agents from other government agencies will be on hand, taking direction from the Secret Service. About 7,500 active duty military and 4,000 National Guard troops also will participate.

The inauguration program is to feature poet Elizabeth Alexander; Rev. Joseph Lowery, a veteran civil rights leader; the U.S. marine and navy bands; and the San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cellphone-only homes growing

COMMUNICATIONS The portion of American homes with cellphones but no landlines has grown to 18 per cent, led by adults living with unrelated roommates, renters and young people, according to federal figures released yesterday.

An additional 13 per cent of households have landlines but get all or nearly all calls on their cells, the survey showed. Taken together, that means about three in 10 households are essentially reachable only on their wireless phones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Case of musical chairs

Canada now a shadow of its former self on world stage

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

From Lawrence Cannon comes word that Canada is "actively campaigning" for a seat on the United Nations Security Council beginning in 2011.

Cannon made the announcement — if that is what it was — at a diplomatic forum in Quebec City yesterday. Reuters treated it as news. For Canadians who fear their country has gone missing in the world, maybe it is.

News? It's news that we are "pursuing" a seat that we have held, once a decade, since the founding of the United Nations in 1945? It's news that we are mounting a campaign to assume our traditional role as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members of the council?

If that's news, it's because Canada's stature has fallen so far that last spring Ottawa had considered *not* running for a seat traditionally considered ours. If we were not going to win it, the government felt, why risk the embarrassment of losing?

"This suggests a country without commitment, which simply isn't serious about the world anymore."

We are now a country that's a shadow of its former self in the world, which must labour mightily to win a seat on the Security Council. The fear in Ottawa is that Canada won't have the votes in the General Assembly when the election is held in 2010.

Much has to do with a loss of support in Africa, where we no longer have the presence in development assistance that we did. Indeed, some say that we have abandoned Africa.

This time the two open seats may likely to go Portugal or to Germany, which has been mounting a well-organized campaign.

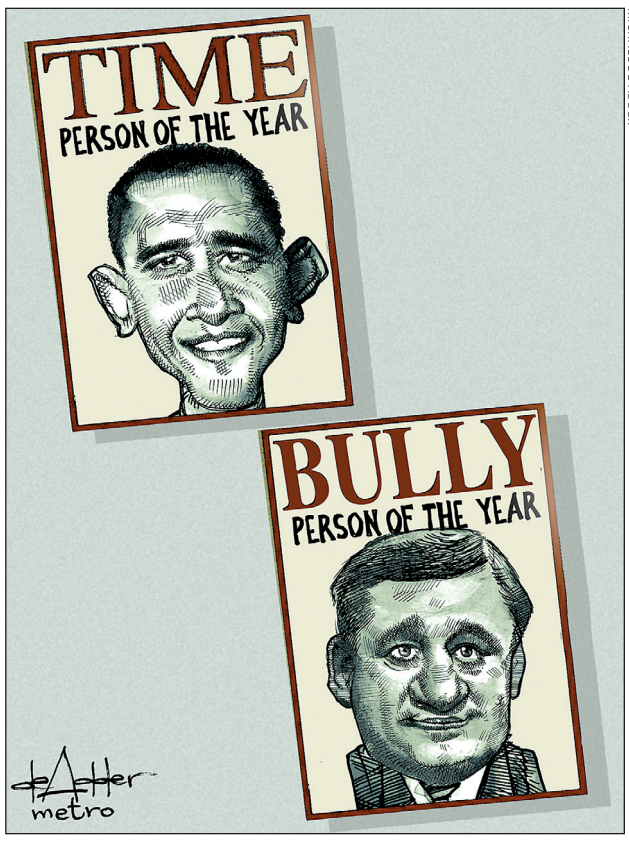
Incidentally, Cannon is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. You can be forgiven if you don't know this because it's unlikely the world does, as well.

This isn't his fault; Cannon is intelligent, thoughtful and articulate in both official languages. The problem is Cannon is Canada's fourth foreign minister since the Conservatives took office in February 2006. He has been preceded by Peter MacKay, Maxime Bernier and David Emerson.

Changing ministers like changing shirts isn't new; since Lester Pearson left the position in 1957, Canada has had a different foreign minister about every two years. The terms are getting shorter.

This suggests a country without commitment, which simply isn't serious about the world anymore. And that's why we are now chasing a seat on the Security Council, and why that is news in Canada.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Getting better child care: It's the policy, stupid

Martha Friendly

A new study of early childhood education and care in 25 countries ranked Canada in last place, tied with Ireland, behind the U.S., Australia and Mexico.

While other evidence has long shown Canada to be a laggard on child care, UNICEF's study — the first to use measurable outcomes — has motivated Canadians to ask, "Why are we doing so poorly?" The study offers a plain answer: "It's the policy, stupid," paraphrasing former U.S. president Bill Clinton's campaign slogan.

Two key developments drove the study. First, most children in affluent countries now have mothers working outside the home; 75 per cent of mothers of three- to five-year-olds are in the labour force in Canada.

Second, abundant research shows that young children — especially older preschoolers and more vulnerable children — benefit from good quality early childhood education (ECEC).

"It's no wonder that UNICEF has called on Canada for a public policy response."

UNICEF observes that these developments converge: Access to good quality not only enhances a child's well-being and development with long-term social and economic returns, but is also a key strategy for responding to immediate economic challenges such as parents' access to employment, reduction of dependence on social programs, strengthening local economies and job creation.

The study bases its rankings on 10 benchmarks that build upon Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states, "The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

The rankings tell the public policy story. None of the six poorest ranking countries has a national plan for ECEC. The six top countries met most of the benchmarks, including public financing of at least one per cent of GDP while the poorest ranked countries met very few. The benchmark ratings show that public policy "in the best interests of children" means that a national policy and adequate financing are linked to good access to quality ECEC programs and go hand-in-hand with better parental leave, lower child poverty rates and better health indicators for young children.

It's no wonder that UNICEF has called on Canada for a public policy response — "the federal government must take the lead … with solutions presented to the public by July 2009." A good beginning to this would be funds for child care in the January federal budget followed by development of a robust ECEC policy framework that meets the needs of families and children.

Canada should do no less.

Martha Friendly is the executive director of the Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

Letters

Elephants need their natural habitats protected

Re: Elephants die earlier in zoos: Study (Dec. 12)

Is it that difficult to understand why elephants in zoos have shorter lifespans than those in protected sanctuaries?

Animals, which in the wild travel up to 15 miles a day and live in extended families, are forced to live on concrete pads in near or complete isolation. This has been shown time and time again to lead to conditions such as severe arthritis and numerous other physical and psychological problems due to a lack of movement and social interaction.

Elephants do not belong in zoos, but rather need conservationists to focus their efforts on protecting their natural habitats and putting an end to poaching and hunting.

BARBI LAZARUS, TORONTO

Pharmaceutical companies bound by strict rules

Re: No more pharma for med students (Dec. 15)

In response to this article, I would like to clarify the role of the research-based pharmaceutical community in Canada's health-care system.

All our member companies and their 20,000 Canadian employees are governed by a strict and mandatory Code of Ethical Practices to ensure that their interactions with physicians meet the highest standards. Our code explicitly forbids offering gifts or other inducements to gain influence with health-care professionals including medical students. All information provided to health-care professionals by our members must be accurate, fair and balanced.

RUSSELL WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT, CANADA'S RESEARCH-BASED PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

Canada is not a colony tied to the mother country

Re: Are we a colony? (Dec. 16)

Enough already! Do we have to hear from every pompous pundit on the pros and cons of our constitutional monarchy form of government?

Get over it, gentlemen. Canada is not a colony tied to the mother country, and the Queen is not a foreign monarch.

JOHN TAGG, TORONTO

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(Hybrid shown)

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(Hybrid shown)

Pontiac Vibe
2009 AJAC Award – Best new small car over $18,000

Chevrolet Malibu
2008 North American Car of the Year
(Hybrid shown)

*Awarded by North American International Auto shows. 1. Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid named 2008 Green Car of the Year by Green Car Journal editors. **2008 Best New Small Car awarded to Saturn Astra. 2009 Best New Small Car over $18,000 awarded to Pontiac Vibe. †Based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada Test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary.

Bonds interest rate drops

The Ontario government says the interest rate for the variable rate Ontario Savings Bonds will be 1.75 per cent for the next six months, down from 3 per cent in June 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Carney ducks rate query

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says it is "entirely premature" to talk about implementing in this country the kinds of unorthodox policy tools the Federal Reserve Board is preparing to wield after the U.S. central bank cut its key interest rate this week to virtually zero.

Reiterating that Canada has entered a recession that will persist into next year, Carney suggested there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but said central bankers and government shouldn't let down their guard. "It is sometimes hard to see the end of the crisis, but end it will," Carney said, urging better early-warning systems to detect future financial crises.

"It is sometimes hard to see the end of the crisis, but end it will."
Mark Carney

While Carney refused to speculate about the prospect of Canada's trend-setting rate going to zero, one of the country's big banks said yesterday that it could eventually fall as low as 0.5 per cent.

"And when the economy finally gets back into gear, given low inflation as a residual, we don't think that the Bank of Canada or the Fed (would) start tightening much before the second half of 2010," Warren Jestin, chief economist of the Bank of Nova Scotia, said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OPEC's cut fails to prop up oil price

OIL OPEC says it is cutting 2.2 million barrels a day from its output — the largest ever at one time — to stem crude prices that have plummeted more than 70 per cent from summer highs of nearly $150 US. OPEC said that means it is taking 4.2 million barrels a day off the market compared to September.

The cut failed to boost oil prices yesterday, with markets already pricing in a reduced flow of oil. Crude for January delivery fell nearly 5 per cent, or $2.07, to $41.53 US on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Explorer flaw exposes computers to malware

INTERNET More than 1.5 million computer users around the globe may have been exposed to harmful software or viruses because of a "critical" security flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer.

The software giant yesterday released an unscheduled update, or patch, to protect customers using all supported versions of the software.

Unlike other types of viruses, Internet Explorer users don't need to click or download anything to become infected. Instead, unwitting surfers can put their machines at risk simply by viewing a web page that has been loaded with malicious software. The malware is then quietly downloaded without the knowledge of users.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Malware

- Microsoft estimated that, as of Dec. 13, roughly 0.2 per cent of Internet Explorer users had been exposed to harmful malware because of the flaw.

Glitch halts trading on TSX

STOCKS The Toronto stock market missed an entire trading day because of a technical problem for the first time in its history yesterday — and has said only that it intends to reopen at 9:30 a.m. ET today.

Market operator TMX Group Inc. said its new Quantum trading engine performed flawlessly but data feeds were interrupted, and "because the data feeds provide information to investors to guide their trading decisions, trading was halted to ensure market integrity."

This isn't the first time the Toronto market has closed unexpectedly: It was shut down after the September 2001 terrorist attacks, and about a year before that it collapsed for four hours under a flood of trading in former market heavyweight Nortel Networks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

FREEZE Kingsway Financial Services, a Toronto-based insurance company under pressure from an activist shareholder to improve its finances, says the company is freezing salaries and cutting 162 jobs in a move to lower costs.

REBUKE The Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Christopher Cox blames his career regulators for a decade-long failure to investigate Wall Street money manager Bernard Madoff, now accused of running one of the largest Ponzi schemes ever. His staff relied on information voluntarily produced by Madoff and his firm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Davenport pregnant, to skip Aussie open

American tennis star Lindsay Davenport is withdrawing from the Australian Open because she is pregnant with her second child. The former No. 1-ranked woman gave birth to a son, Jagger, in June 2007. Davenport hasn't played since the U.S. Open in August of this year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

"There's just so many bloggers; everybody's got an opinion. Sometimes that starts forming the opinion of people in front offices, too, and owner."

Minnesota Timberwolves coach Kevin McHale, left, to the St. Paul Pioneer-Press on the stresses of coaching in the NBA today. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Tiger aiming to return at Masters

GOLF Tiger Woods has started to hit balls with short irons and says he's able to stabilize his rebuilt left knee. The 14-time major champion says he's right on schedule to play the Masters. Woods had reconstructive surgery a week after winning a playoff for the U.S. Open title in June. His news conference yesterday was his first since that victory.

Nestor, Zimonjic top doubles pair

TENNIS Toronto's Daniel Nestor and partner Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia were named the International Tennis Federation's top men's doubles team for 2008 yesterday. Nestor and Zimonjic beat Americans Bob and Mike Bryan in the Masters Cup doubles final to clinch the year-end No. 1 ranking. Rafael Nadal and Jelena Jankovic were named the top male and female players by the ITF. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boos rain as Raps fade again

NBA RESULT

Mavericks 96 Raptors 86

Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry scored 27 points apiece to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 96-86 victory over Toronto last night, handing the Raptors their third consecutive loss.

Jermaine O'Neal had 19 points to top the Raptors, who coughed up another double-digit lead in the loss and were outrebounded for the 14th game in a row.

The night started out fine for the Raptors, who raced out to 13-point in the first quarter. But reminiscent of Monday's 94-87 loss to New Jersey, their game went downhill from there, and by the time Nowitzki drained a three-pointer to put the Mavs up 67-59 late in the third quarter, the disgruntled Air Canada Centre crowd loudly booed the Raptors.

The game was the last for Toronto at the Air Canada Centre until the team hosts Denver on New Year's Eve. They head west for a six-game trip and will likely breath a sigh of relief when they leave town.

The Raptors were outrebounded for the 20th time in the past 24 games they've been beaten on the boards. Chris Bosh, whose numbers have been on the decline since an impressive start, shot just 6-for-20 from the field.

The all-star forward averaged 26.8 points in October and November, but that's dropped off to 18.9 in December, while his rebounding has gone from 10.2 to 8.9 a night.

He couldn't buy a basket yesterday, at one point in the third quarter missing on what normally would be a routine dunk. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jason Kapono and Chris Bosh go up for a defensive board last night. The Raptors led by as many as 13, but fell again 96-86.

Sports in brief

NBA Banished New York Knicks guard Stephon Marbury bought his own courtside ticket and attended the Knicks/Lakers game in Los Angeles Tuesday night. Marbury spoke to the media during halftime about his status as a non-player with the Knicks despite being under contract. "I'm still earning my check by doing nothing. I'm staying in shape. My mind-set is to enjoy my life."

Marbury

MLB As the Boston Red Sox pursue Mark Teixeira, their owner said yesterday the amount they're willing to spend on free agents depends economic problems and the player involved. With as many as five teams showing interest in the first baseman, there is serious doubt the Red Sox would go longer than the eight-year contract the Los Angeles Angels, Teixeira's former team, have offered. "We all have limits," Red Sox owner John Henry said. "Eight years is a very long time in baseball." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada drops to 90th in FIFA rankings

European champion Spain has finished the year in style – atop FIFA's world soccer rankings.

But Canada dropped nine spots to No. 90, its lowest ranking since May 2007, in the list released yesterday.

A year ago, the Canadians ranked 55th.

Spain won all 16 of its matches in 2008 — including the penalty shootout victory over Italy in a European Championship quarter-final — after starting the year ranked No. 4. It has been top for six straight months since winning Euro 2008 in June.

England continued its revival under coach Fabio Capello, moving up two places to No. 8. Euro 2008 semifinalist Turkey climbed three to No. 10.

The Czech Republic and Portugal fell out of the top 10, joining France in a three-way tie for No. 11.

Cameroon is the top African nation at No. 14. Egypt climbed three to No. 16 and Nigeria also rose three to No. 19.

The United States leads the CONCACAF region, up two places to No. 22. Mexico dropped one to 26th.

A total of 1,040 international matches played in 2008 counted toward the rankings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bush done for season
Running back Reggie Bush will miss the final two games of the New Orleans Saints' season. Bush injured his left knee during the Saints' loss to the Chicago Bears last Thursday night. The knee was examined over the weekend and coach Sean Payton said yesterday the team decided to put Bush on injured reserve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kessel enjoying the ride after tougher times

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Bruins' Phil Kessel was named NHL first star of the week on Monday.

Before Phil Kessel could earn a passing grade in the National Hockey League, he had to learn not to cheat.

The 21-year-old, suddenly one of the league's hottest scorers, attributes his success to improved two-way play under Boston head coach Claude Julien — in particular, not vacating the defensive zone early to cherry-pick scoring chances. It's that type of "cheating" that had Kessel in the press box as a healthy scratch in the playoffs last spring. "He (Julien) instilled that you have to play good two-way hockey to get offensive chances," he said.

"Our whole team is playing good two-way hockey. It's creating good chances in the offensive end, starting in the defensive end." The Bruins, who have been a .500-or-less team for the past five seasons, are one of the first-half surprises in the NHL, atop the Eastern Conference with a 21-5-4 record. Kessel has already tied his career high of 19 goals in just 30 games. He is also the NHL's reigning first star of the week.

These days, Julien wouldn't even think of scratching the third-year winger.

Kessel credits his success to linemates Marc Savard and Milan Lucic. Savard provides uncanny playmaking savvy, Lucic brings the brawn, and Kessel the sniper's touch. Together, they have 36 goals and 85 points in 30 games.

"We have a great bunch of guys," Kessel said. "We're winning, and when we show up to the rink, we're having fun." Kessel, drafted fifth overall in 2006, has been through a lot in his young career. He was diagnosed with testicular cancer halfway through his NHL rookie campaign, but was pronounced cancer-free a week later after surgery.

He won the Bill Masterton Trophy for his dedication to hockey and has no lingering issues, only requiring a checkup every couple of months.

Tonight
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Radio: AM 640

A few blue and white things to be thankful for

For my last column before the holiday season, I thought it would be nice to spread a little cheer for fans of the Blue and White.

True, there will likely be a lot of new faces in town once GM Brian Burke heats up the phones after the holiday trade moratorium, but for now, let's look at the positives from the first 30 games of the Maple Leafs' season.

Lack of Jeff Finger jokes

Since the players actually began playing, all the wags that used the new defenceman as a Jay Leno-esque punchline due to the size of his contract have largely been silent.

Finger has unleashed some big hits on opponents, dropped the gloves when called upon and logged more than 21 minutes of ice time per game.

Yeah, maybe he could have been snagged for less than $3.5 million per year, but he certainly hasn't embarrassed himself.

A line with speed

Injuries and line shuffling have gotten in the way recently, but as I've written here before, the line of Niklas Hagman, Mikhail Grabovski and Nikolai Kulemin has been one of the most exciting aspects of this Toronto team.

The trio caused havoc every time they got the puck and especially early on, they were the most dangerous combo the team had. On top of that, with 19 points in 30 games, Grabbo has a legitimate shot at the Calder Trophy as NHL rookie of the year.

In fact, with his steady play and a little more experience than the average freshman (27 games with Montreal over two seasons), the second half may be the centre's chance to put some distance between himself and the other candidates.

The resurrection of Ian White

Whether at forward or his natural position on defence, the man with the moustache has been excellent for the Buds. Ever since his early healthy scratches, White has played the way a pro is supposed to when challenged: He has stepped up his game.

He's a plus-4 right now, which is best among Leaf regulars (Jeremy Williams is also plus-4 through three games).

They're better than Ottawa

How's that for the finest vintage of sour grapes? The Leafs may not be a playoff team, but that was never the expectation this year.

The Senators, on the other hand, went into the season under the assumption that the jettisoning of Wade Redden and Ray Emery would once again springboard the team to greatness. But here we are after 30 games and the Leafs find themselves looking down in the Northeast Division standings at their archrivals from Bytown.

"If ever there was a Christmas gift to Leaf Nation, a struggling Ottawa team is a pretty good one"

If ever there was a Christmas gift to Leaf Nation, a struggling Ottawa team is a pretty good one.

They play hard

Thanks to coach Ron Wilson, these Buds don't fold. They may struggle in the shootout (unless it's against New Jersey), but at least they get there. So far this year, the Leafs have won seven games in which they trailed after one period and sent two more into overtime or the shootout.

Maintaining that pace will double the amount of times they did the trick last season. When trailing after two periods, the Leafs have won three times and sent two more to the extra frame.

Last season, they only won six games and pushed two others to OT when trailing after two.

Luke Schenn

He'll be back soon and the love affair with the city will continue.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Fleury to end month layoff

NHL Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury will start tonight in Atlanta, the first time he has played since injuring his groin Nov. 15. Fleury was the backup goalie during a 6-3 loss in Philadelphia on Saturday, his first time in uniform since getting hurt against Buffalo.

Fleury, who helped lead the Penguins to the Stanley Cup finals last season, is 8-3-2 with a .907 save percentage and 2.86 goals-against average in 14 games.

Eskimos hire Hall as head man

CFL The Edmonton Eskimos named Richie Jall their new head coach yesterday, announcing that they'd hired the longtime Saskatchewan Roughriders' assistant coach. Hall takes over coaching duties from Danny Maciocia, who stepped away from the sidelines to move into the front office full time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Slingin' Sammy Baugh dies at 94

Sammy Baugh, who set numerous passing records with the Washington Redskins in an era when NFL teams were running most every down, died last night, his son said. Baugh, who was 94 and had numerous health issues, died at Fisher County Hospital in Texas, David Baugh said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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COPHYCCFP Metro Toronto - Toronto WK50

Argo legend Krol dies at 89

The nickname said it all. Joe Krol, known as King, was the supreme ruler of the Toronto sports world more than half a century ago when he passed, ran and kicked the Toronto Argonauts to five Grey Cups.

Krol, who died Tuesday at Sunnybrook Health Centre at the age of 89 after a fall at his home, will always be remembered as one of Canada's greatest athletes.

He was also half of one of the most memorable sports tandems in Canadian history, pairing with receiver Royal Copeland to become "the Gold Dust Twins."

"When we see a bright future for our league, it's because we can stand on the shoulders of giants," said CFL commissioner Mark Cohon. "Joe 'King' Krol was one of those giants."

Krol, who won the Lou Marsh Award in 1946 and the Lionel Conacher Award in '46 and '47 as Canada's top athlete, may have been the most versatile athlete to play in the Canadian Football League.

It was a time when everybody played both ways, but few did it as well as Krol. He was a quarterback and halfback out of a single-wing offence, as well as a defensive back and punter.

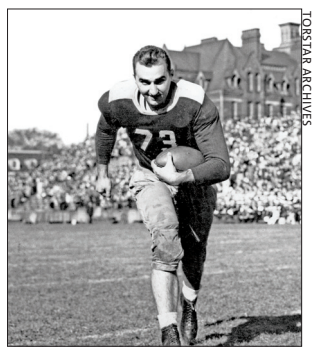
He excelled at all, still holding several league and team records.

In his first of three consecutive Argo Grey Cups in 1945, Krol returned an interception for a touchdown in a 35-0 win over Winnipeg.

He threw three touchdown passes in the 1946 championship win, a Grey Cup record he still shares with Doug Flutie.

In the 1947 Grey Cup, Krol kicked four singles and threw a touchdown pass to Copeland as the Argos defeated Winnipeg 10-9.

But despite the accolades, he remained humble.


TORSTAR ARCHIVES
Krol won the Lou Marsh Trophy in 1946 and the Lionel Conacher Award in '46 and '47.

"Humility was his platform and family and friends were his greatest audience," said Argos CEO Michael Clemons.

"When we recognized him alongside Damon Allen at this year's home opener, he was visibly embarrassed by public praise. It was just his job I guess; a job he did better than any player in Toronto Argonauts history."

Football wasn't Krol's only game. He was the last player cut by the Toronto Huskies in 1946, their only NBA season.

Born in Hamilton in 1919, Krol starred in university football at both Windsor and Western Ontario.

He started his pro career in 1942 with the Hamilton Wildcats and won his first Grey Cup with them in 1943.

After playing two games with the Detroit Lions in 1945, he joined the Argos and became a star.

After nine years as the toast of Toronto, Krol retired from football to get into the insurance business.

But the Argos lured him back in 1955, strictly as a punter.

"I didn't make $7,000 until my last year, and that was the most I ever made from football," Krol told The Toronto Star in 1994.

A visitation will be held tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Humphrey Funeral Home, 1403 Bayview Ave.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 5 Buffalo 3
Columbus 2 San Jose 1
Calgary at Minnesota
Edmonton at Vancouver
N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Toronto at Boston
St. Louis at Washington
Florida at Carolina
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Montreal
Colorado at Tampa Bay
San Jose at Detroit
Columbus at Dallas
Nashville at Phoenix

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 96 **TORONTO** 86
Philadelphia 93 Milwaukee 88
Indiana 127 Golden State 120
Boston 88 Atlanta 85
Utah at New Jersey
Washington at Detroit
Cleveland at Minnesota
L.A. Clippers at Chicago
San Antonio at New Orleans

TONIGHT'S GAMES
San Antonio at Orlando
Phoenix at Portland

NFL

TONIGHT'S GAME
Indianapolis at Jacksonville

SATURDAY'S GAME
Baltimore at Dallas

SUNDAY'S GAMES
New Orleans at Detroit
Pittsburgh at Tennessee
Miami at Kansas City
Arizona at New England
San Francisco at St. Louis
San Diego at Tampa Bay
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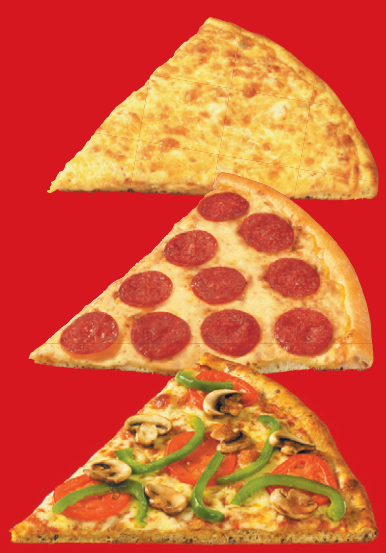

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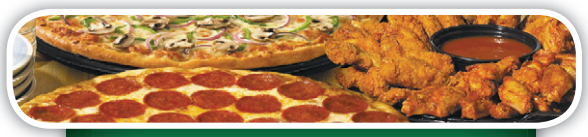

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Lighting the way
Outdoor lights have undergone a real makeover in the past few years. No more tangled, frustrating strands of hard-to-put-up bulbs — new styles have ultra simple clips that make it easy to affix them to banisters, rain gutters, door frames and even along walkways. **HGTV.CA**

Metro Homes

Bottled up
Evian's holiday pret-a-porter bottles by Christian Lacroix, far left, and Jean Paul Gaultier can double as off-beat and budget-friendly vases. Just add white branches, holly or a cut amaryllis.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

An enduring aesthetic

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

Inviting, simple and eloquent define Context Development's Market Wharf model suite for their St. Lawrence Market condominiums.

"We try to stay away from trendy materials and finishes so that the suites will endure. It's modern elegance." says Craig Taylor, co-designer and director of marketing for Context.

The suite, designed by Taylor and Michael Krus, a partner of TACT Design, is about being "different for the sake of being subtly different."

Leaning towards a European aesthetic, the space — which includes a living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom — uses classic white porcelain tiling throughout its floors. This tiling continues along the bathroom walls and up to the ceiling in a similar style.

Furniture from French manufacturer Ligne Roset puts forward lightness and elegance. This is balanced with a warm and inviting feel brought by the furniture's colour combination.

In the kitchen, stainless steel appliances are paired with counter depth to achieve a built-in look.

"There's a cohesive look to the overall space," says Krus. "(But) it's distinct and not something you can tear out of every magazine."

The designers of the Market Wharf suite were aiming for modern elegance that wouldn't date.

Suite Talk

Other features include zebrawood laminate cabinets, CaesarStone quartz countertops, and an iconic '60s light fixture over the dining table.

Taylor says that the "subtle, eclectic modernism" is meant to attract downtown professionals of all ages and in various points of their careers.

Units at Market Wharf range from studios and one-to-two bedrooms through penthouses; spaces range from 422 to over 2,000 square feet. Prices begin from the low $200,000s.

In the model suite's kitchen, stainless steel appliances are paired with counter depth to achieve a built-in look.

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Designer Angelo Surmelis, from HGTV's Rate My Space demonstrates how to use red balls and cranberries to create decorations for the holidays.

DIY holiday decor

Sure, the stores are filled with beautiful pre-made decorations this time of year. But do you really want your home to look like everyone else's?

We asked some HGTV designers what they could easily create out of two cheap, easy-to-find Christmas decorations: Glass balls and cranberries, faux or real. Angelo Surmelis, host of Rate My Space and designer from HGTV's Home for the Holidays, came up with the following two projects:

Cranberry vase

Supplies:
- Two clear glass vases or tall bowls of similar size, but one slightly smaller in diameter and height than the other (one should fit into the other)
- Favourite flowers, preferably white
- Fresh cranberries

Directions:
- Fill smaller vase with water; place inside large one.
- Fill gap between the vases with cranberries all the way to the top, so smaller vase is no longer visible.
- Arrange flowers in the centre vase.

Red "ornaments"

Supplies:
- Old red holiday ornaments in various sizes
- Clear, hollow candlesticks, trifle dishes and clear vases of different sizes
- Piece of sturdy cardboard

Directions:
- Turn candlesticks upside down and fill from the bottom opening with small red ornaments. Then cover opening with cardboard and turn candlesticks back upright (cardboard will keep ornaments from dropping out as candlesticks are turned over.) Once they are upright, slide cardboard out and discard or reuse.
- Fill clear vases, bowls or trifle dishes of different sizes with ornaments.
- Group the pieces together for maximum impact.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Decor

Read more in the January issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine. ON SALE NOW! *styleathome.com* | CANADA'S styleathome

Belgian farmhouse

One of 2009's top decor trends is a new direction for country

Calm and collected, this style combines a casual elegance with rustic comfort. Touch-me fabrics and loose-fitting slipcovers add texture, while weathered furnishings and burnished metals ground the look.

Keeping things clean and unfussy, colours are muted and accessories nature-inspired. This is a new direction for country — a move away from shabby chic to a quiet, contemporary aesthetic.

Colour: The key word here is restrained, so consider a muted palette of naturals, neutrals and greys. This isn't the place for brightly hued accents, but that doesn't mean it's dull. The cool, chalky grey tone used here is one of Farrow & Ball's top three paint colours for 2009. It brings an element of serenity without crossing into the sombre.

Accessories: Play up texture, choosing accessories that bring the outdoors in — from realistic pieces like piles of logs, rough-hewn wood and faux moss to more artistic details like ornithology prints.

Silhouette: Think clean, almost architectural lines when it comes to furniture and accessories. Strong design is balanced by casual, loose-fitting slipcovers and comfy pillows.

— WRITTEN BY STACY LEE KONG, PRODUCED BY BRETT WALTHER

DANIEL HARRISON

Right, Pavilion Gray 242 paint, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com. Traditional Low slipcovered sofa with cushions, $3,600, Montauk, montauksofa.com. Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Eartha console, $1,315, and side table, $875; Large Classic Balustrade lamp, $495; Elte, elte.com. Egeby sisal rug, $200, IKEA. 17th-century reproduction Dutch bird prints, $195 (small), $250 (medium), $295 (large), Constantine, 866-929-1177.

LAURA ARSIE

Shopping, etc.

One Twenty Modern aims for off-the-wall

HOME & STYLE One Twenty Modern, 120 Ossington Ave., 416-537-4400. Named after its address on an increasingly hip strip of Ossington Avenue, One Twenty Modern is owner Martin Myers' paean to cutting-edge European modern design. He also owns nearby Quasi Modo Modern Furniture, known for carrying modern classics by Kartell and Herman Miller, among other companies. At this new locale, however, he celebrates the swankiest of European sophisticates, like Italy's Edra and Spain's Nani Marquina. "I wanted One Twenty Modern to be a little off-the-wall," Martin says. — HELEN RACANALLI

Table talk

Black jasper foo dogs add drama to dinner

HOME & STYLE Fiercely stylish! Diminutive foo dogs in trendy black jasper deliver drama to the dining table. Dynasty collection 9 cm salt and pepper shakers $50 per set, Waterford Wedgwood, 800-668-7585; waterfordwedgwood.ca.

— BRETT WALTHER

High/low **Chic and cheap pairs for a bedroom you'll love waking up to**

Bargello Chevron hand-embroidered 22" sq. pillow in Multi, $175 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

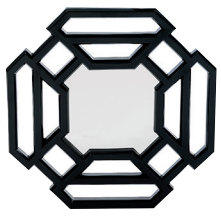
Embroidered 18" sq. pillow, Pier 1 Imports, $36, pier1.com.

Drexel Heritage Lillian August mirrored vanity, $1,399, and mirror, $659, DeBoer's, deboers.com.

Hayworth mirrored vanity, $389, and mirror, $219, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.com.

Below, rubber wood stool, $375, Visitor Parking, visitorparking.ca.

Wooden stool, $130, HomeSense, homesense.ca.



Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Arabesque mirror in Espresso, $295, Elte, elte.com.

Mirror, $30, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Cocoa pima cotton sateen queen sheet set, $140, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

Queen sheet set, $50, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

— PRODUCED BY GENEVIEVE WISEMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BAGOSY (BEDDING, HOMESENSE MIRROR, VISITOR PARKING STOOL)

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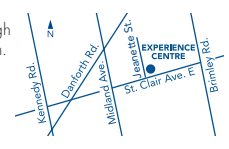

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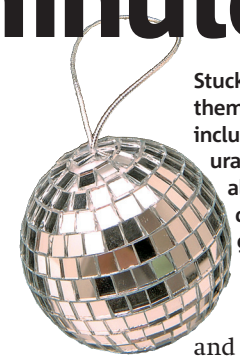
Seasonal smarts
Before you start hanging holiday lights, test each strand — and measure the distance you need it to cover — to avoid an emergency trip to the store. HGTV.CA

Last-minute festive decor

HomeScape



Stuck for a holiday decor theme? Tried-and-true options include high-shine and natural looks — and you can always resort to some combination of red, green, gold and silver.

If you're one of those people who honestly do intend to put up Christmas decorations but haven't yet gotten around to it, don't worry. There really is time before your in-laws come knocking at the door ... but not much.

What you need is a plan to minimize work and maximize your holiday decor impact. Luckily, some of us have been there and are willing to share the art of laying on the Christmas cheer pretty close to the deadline.

Rule No. 1 is to scale down — concentrate on doing more with less. Try to avoid plastering the house with every last piece of Christmas finery you've acquired over the last decade. For a classy look, less is more. Be selective.

It can be handy to go with a theme in order to choose which decorations you need to use, and which ones you need to keep stored away.

You may decide to go with ornaments of a certain colour, for example. If you do, pick colours that harmonize with your home decor.

But if you're at a loss about how to co-ordinate holiday decor with your purple walls, you can always go for some combination of red, green, gold and silver, which always works well at Christmas.

If you're willing to be adventurous, you could go with a theme, such as ornaments from a certain time, like '70s disco, or an old-fashioned Victorian-looking Christmas, or a "bling" Christmas using baubles and enormous rings.

Something unique can be refreshingly original, but the old standards can be quite lovely, too. As always, traditional colours always look great with evergreen boughs, pinecones, grasses, branches and berries. Although the natural look may not be new and exciting, it looks reliably classy.

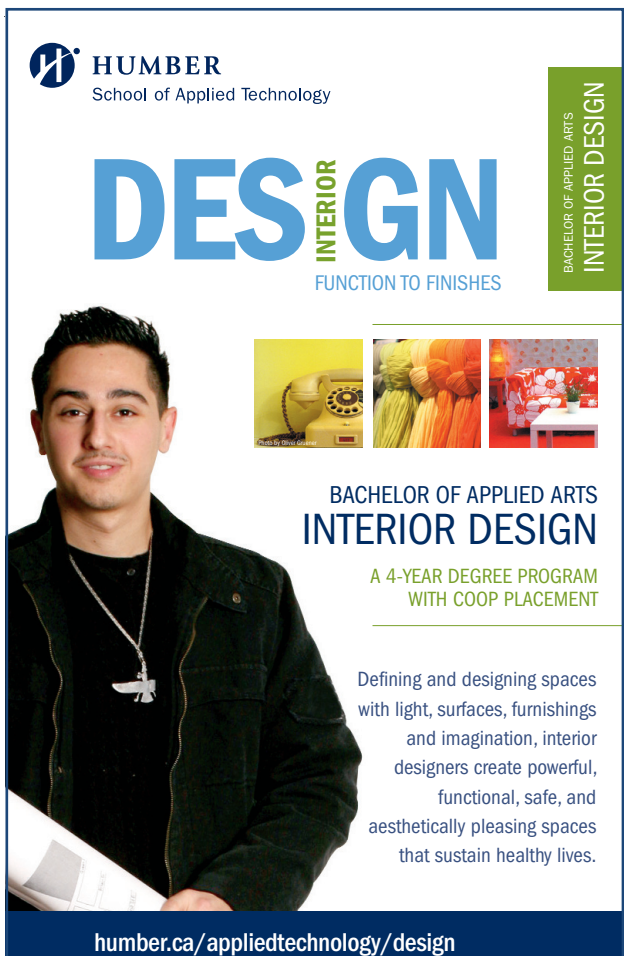
When it comes to choosing areas of the house to decorate, stick to a few highly visible areas. A Christmas tree is obligatory in most houses. Other visible areas include the front door or windows, a fireplace mantel and a staircase railing.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Secret weapons

Here are a few other tricks for late decorators:

- Tie ribbon on candlesticks, plants, chair backs, doorknobs or anything at all to make things look festive.
- Use shiny baubles, shiny metals and crystal pieces that will reflect light or let it sparkle through.
- Have lots of candles and a lit fireplace. At dinner or family relaxation time, remember to light the candles. They reflect off all the shiny baubles and reflective pieces and look wonderfully Christmas-y. (Remember to blow them out when you leave the room.)



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Unravelling land-transfer taxes

There always seems to be plenty of confusion surrounding the topic of land-transfer taxes, and the new Toronto land-transfer tax — which was implemented earlier this year — didn't make things any clearer.

Ontario Land-Transfer Tax

This tax applies to all residential real estate property in Ontario. In the case of new homes purchased from a builder, the tax is payable on the amount before GST. The tax is payable upon closing and is calculated as follows:

- 0.5 per cent on the first $55,000 of the purchase price, plus;
- one per cent on the amount exceeding $55,000 up to and including $250,000, plus;
- 1.5 per cent on the amount exceeding $250,000 up to and including $400,000, plus;
- two per cent on the amount exceeding $400,000.

Rebates on the Ontario LTT are available for first-time buyers only. To qualify, you — and your spouse if applicable — must be at least 18 years of age and must have never owned an interest in a home anywhere in the world (since you became spouses). If one of you owned a home prior to being married and sold that home prior to marriage, the other spouse may claim the entire refund, even in the case of a home owned jointly.

If two non-spouses buy a home with 50/50 interest, where only one purchaser qualifies as a first-time buyer, that buyer may reclaim 50 per cent of the rebate. The total rebate is capped at $2,000 in any case.

Toronto Land-Transfer Tax

When the Toronto LTT was implemented, the Ontario LTT rebate was amended to apply to both new and resale homes. The Toronto LTT is calculated as follows:

- 0.5 per cent on the first $55,000 of the purchase price, plus;
- one per cent on the amount exceeding $55,000 up to and including $400,000, plus;
- two per cent on the amount exceeding $400,000.

Rebates on the Toronto LTT are also available for first-time buyers only, and are capped at a total of $3,725. Properties subject to the Toronto LTT are those within the 416 area. First-time buyer qualification rules for the Toronto LTT are the same as those used for the Ontario LTT.

It's easy to see why there was a backlash when Toronto's LTT rates effectively doubled. First-time buyers were relatively unharmed, but growing families found their second-home purchase decisions were significantly affected.

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Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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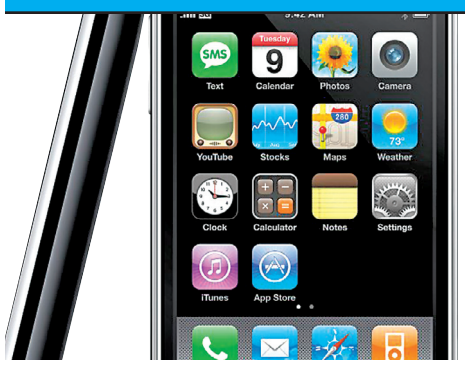
Holiday Shopping Guide V

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

His favourite things

For gift ideas for everyone on your list — including little boys — go to pages 34-42.

Phones Pg 43

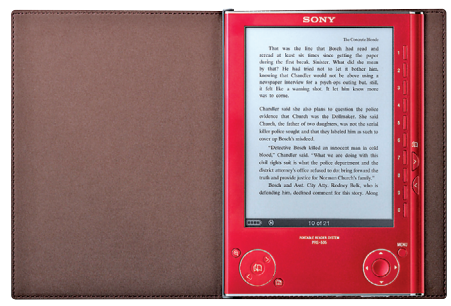


Rick McGinnis reviews the best cellphones this season.

Books Pgs 44-45

A roundup of the best books for adults and children.

Gadgets Pgs 46-47



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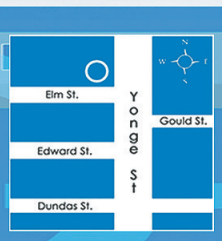

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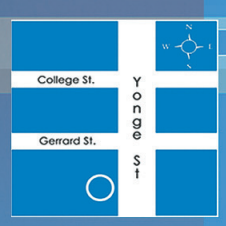

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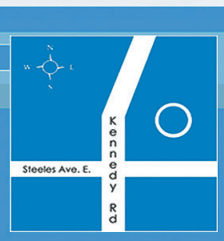

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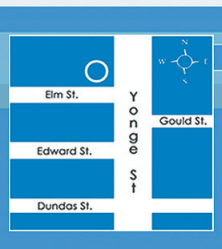

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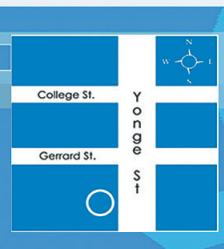

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Holiday Shopping Guide V

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"Toffee" Tini Puppini doll, $34.99, by Spin Master. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, more.

#2 Hot holiday toys for him
Visit: bakugan.com
Bakugan Battle Brawlers, $5.49-$24.99. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, and more.

#3 Jingle bell rock 'n' roll
Visit: cbc.ca/kids
Mamma Yamma and Friends CD, $19.99 at chapters-indigo.ca.

#4 Fun and educational
Visit: beezibeez.com
This spelling game, $29.99, is available at barnesandnoble.com.

#5 Help them get active
Visit: m2universe.com
Kids can play Me2, $36.95, once they earn points through physical activity.

#6 Rockin' and rollin'
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This plush rocking giraffe, $59.99, is available at Winners stores across Canada.

#7 Monkeying around
Phone: 1-888-633-5833
Visit: GrassrootsStore.com
Organic cotton-stuffed monkeys, $29.99.

#8 Make music
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Be Weil Collection by Dr. Andrew Weil for Origins, $94. Includes Plantidote Mega-Mushroom Face Cream and Cleanser. Available at select Bay locations and online at origins.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Holiday Shopping Guide V

Gifts for your wise men

#1 Luxury leather
Phone: 1-888-550-3462
Visit: zegna.com
Wallets and card holders by Ermenegildo Zegna.

#2 The gift of time
Visit: montblanc.com to find a retailer near you
Montblanc TimeWalker Desk Clock, $1,060.

#3 Proceeds go to charity
Mail order: 416-483-1335
Kiehl's Aloe Vera Biodegradable Liquid Body Cleanser, $20.50.

#4 Naturally Nourishing
Visit: burtsbees.ca
Burt's Bees Nourishing Gift Set includes body wash and lip balm, $23.99.

#5 For the sports fan
Visit: nikebauer.com
Nike Bauer Individual Stick Bag, $25. At hockey specialty stores.

#6 Stylish and warm
Visit: joe.ca
Argyle V-neck sweater, $39. Available at Joe Fresh Style.

#7 For the collector
Visit: mint.ca
2008 Holiday Coin Set featuring Santa, $19.95. At Canada Post outlets.

#8 Dress him up
Visit: bananarepublic.ca
Men's cufflinks, $50. Available at Banana Republic.

#9 Smooth moves
Visit: schick.ca
Schick Quattro Titanium Trimmer razor, $12.99. At mass market retailers.

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Ceramic Slush Happens Snowman Mug, $9.99 each. Available at Hallmark, hallmark.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide V

Tinseltown treats

#1 Tied up in knots

Visit: m0851.com
Twin pocket knot bag in aubergine, $400. Available at m0851's online store.

#2 For the stylista

Visit: frenchconnection.com
Ladies watch, $198, and ladies vest, $39.99, both by French Connection.

#3 Comfort and joy

Phone: 1-800-363-8737
Visit: tilley.com
Tilley's Travel Jersey Wrap, $79. Also in black and red.

#4 Tasty tea treats

Visit: languageoftheleaf.com
Bombay Chai tea in elegant white tin, $10.99. More under "Gifts" on site.

#5 Dazzle her

Visit: bananarepublic.ca
Bib necklace, $98. Available at Banana Republic.

#6 Goody for her

Visit: food, drug and mass market retailers
The Goody Luxe collection ranges from $4.49-$8.99.

#7 For the supermama

Visit: mamamio.com
Mama Mio SuperMama Kit, $85. Available exclusively at The Bay.

#8 Help keep her safe

Phone: 1-800-663-8613
Visit: wintertrax.ca
Avoid falling on ice with Wintertrax, $19.99.

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Double	$699.99	$269.99
King	$1099.99	$429.99

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FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-36-DUVET or 1-888-624-6484

*Ad must be presented or mentioned to receive offer. Sale ends Dec. 24th/08

Festive flavour
Add a festive flavour to your home with this 24" Jumbo Cranberry Wreath. Available for $18.99 at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide V

Furry friends

#1 Holiday cheer

Visit: oldnavy.ca
Doggie holiday T-shirt, $10.50. Available at Old Navy.

#2 Pamper your pooch

Mail order: 416-483-1335
Kiehl's "For Your Dog" line includes shampoo and spritz, $15-$18.50.

#3 Help her get cosy

Visit: canadiantire.ca
Red 18" corduroy and fleece tie Dog Bed, $8.99. Available at Canadian Tire.

#4 Make him run for it

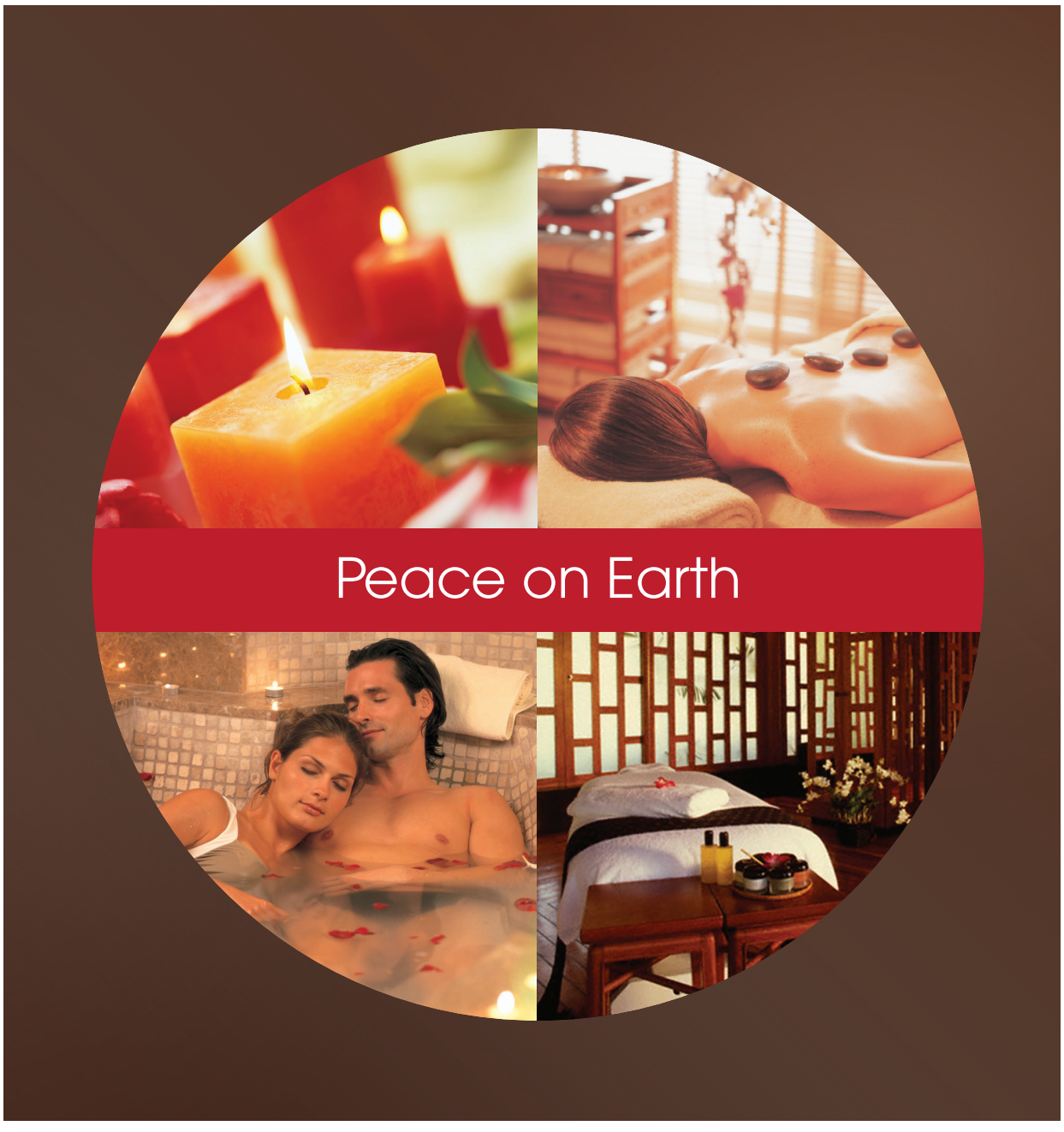
Visit: homehardware.ca
Chuckit Small Flying Squirrel, $6.27. Throws like a flying disc.

#5 For the sports fan

Visit: walmart.ca
Pet jerseys featuring different NHL hockey teams, $16.93. At Wal-Mart.

#6 Exercise for your cat

Visit: homehardware.ca
Cheese Chase Cat Toy, $13.97. Includes plush mouse filled with catnip.



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Sometimes, the greatest gift in our busy world can be the time to unwind and breathe deeply in a quiet place, and be pampered and cared for from head to toe. At WaySpa.com, you'll find treatments, packages and gift certificates **valid at over 150 spas in Toronto**. With savings of up to 40% and convenient shipping and gift wrap options, you'll breathe easy too.

The Smart Way to the Spa
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Makes a great stocking stuffer
Boa Booties slippers, now just $20.97 (regular price $34.95). All Olly Shoe slippers are 40 per cent off until Dec. 24. Visit ollyshoes.com for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Yule love these for him

#1 For the snow lover

Visit: homehardware.ca
Space scooter snowboard with folding handle, $23.97 at Home Hardware.

#2 Package deal

Visit: amazon.ca
Xbox 360 Elite Console Holiday Bundle 2008, $399.99. Includes games.

#3 Alien invasion

Visit: bandai.com
Ben 10 DNA Alien Heroes' Upchuck, $9.99. Available at Toys R Us, Zellers, more.

#4 Sweet ride

Visit: airhogs.com
Air Hogs Zero Gravity Micro, $29.99. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, and others.

#5 Fun with photos

Visit: toyexpress.ca
Waterproof Kid-Tough Digital Camera, $80. Designed to survive being dropped.

#6 Stocking stuffer

Visit: amazon.ca
Nintendo DS in crimson and black, $139.99. Also in pink, silver and blue.

Great Imaging Gifts

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Saturday: 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday: 11:00pm - 5:00pm

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1GB SD Card
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$179 SAVE $35

FUJIFILM FINEPIX F100FD
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12MP, 5x Optical Zoom, 2.7"LCD
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FUJIFILM FINEPIX S2000HD
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SONY Cybershot W150
SAVE $54 $195

SONY Cybershot T77
SAVE $65 $265

Manfrotto 728B
DIGI Compact 3W Tripod
SAVE $20 $139

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Manfrotto 725B
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Holiday Shopping Guide V

Tool time

#1 Get Smart
Visit: blackanddecker.com
This Smart Select Jigsaw, $44.99, features a range of settings.

#2 Lightweight tool kit
Visit: homedepot.ca
Ryobi 4-Piece Lithium-ion Power Tool Kit, $169. Includes Hybrid Saw.

#3 Help him tune in
Visit: dewalt.com
DeWalt Cordless Job Site Radio, $198. At Home Depot, home-based retailers.

#4 Hammer time
Phone: 1-800-567-7705
Visit: bostitch.com
Bostitch Graphite Mallet, $55.99.

#5 Set 'em straight
Visit: utrdecorating.com
Hang & Level, $19.99. Available at home-based retailers across Canada.

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If you're going to shop anyway, make it count.

UNICEF cards and gifts are available right in your neighbourhood. Shop today and make a real difference in the lives of children with the things you buy.

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Shop online at **shopunicef.ca** or by phone at **1 888 777-0380**.

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Bonus: Gold filter included

▶ 4 in 1 Multimix Mixer set
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▶ Powerful Food processor
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▶ 400 Watt hand blender set
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Metal Shaft

▶ Quartz Alarm Clock
REG $30 NOW $20

▶ Latest series 7 Pulsonic cordless shaver
REG $279.95 NOW $219.95
As seen on TV

▶ Hand blender set
REG $59.95 NOW $39.95

▶ Lady Epilator
REG $89.95 NOW $59.95

▶ Latest expressive Epilator
REG $129.95 NOW $99.95

▶ Oral-B Plaque Remover Rechargeable
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▶ Body cruzer Trimmer Cordless
REG $74.95 NOW $54.95

▶ Cordless shaver washable
REG $59.95 NOW $44.95

▶ Cordless hair curler free spirit
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▶ 3-Pack cleaning cartridges for shavers
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▶ Pocket shaver washable
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The best call this holiday season

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Apple iPhone 3G ($199 with a three-year contract)

LG Vu ($79.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

BlackBerry Bold ($299 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Samsung Jack Merlot ($24.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Nokia E71 ($99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Motorola Rokr ($49 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Nokia 5310 XpressMusic ($19.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

There's an almost endless range of cellphones on the market these days, and an equally endless number of things you can do with your phone, depending on how much you're willing to spend on service plans. One thing's for sure, though: It's almost impossible to find one that won't take pictures or play music.

At the top of everyone's wish list is the **iPhone** — the most addictive phone ever to hit the market, thanks to its wildly responsive touch screen and the wild selection of software available through iTunes' app store.

Never mind that if you use the phone as much as it wants you to, you have to recharge the thing every night — it's a computer even more than a cellphone.

LG's Vu is a sort of iPhone lite — a similarly sleek touch screen phone with an icon-based interface.

An especially nice touch is the shutter for the camera — placed on the side, roughly where you'd expect to find it on a real camera.

The **BlackBerry Bold** is among the widest on the market, a boon for text and e-mail fiends with big thumbs.

Like the iPhone, the Bold has a full range of features, but it's all work, and little play — the way it requires that you go two clicks into the menu to turn on the keypad lock is an example of the rigorous relationship BlackBerry users have with their phones.

The **Samsung Jack** is another handful of a phone, running Windows Mobile with a full QWERTY keyboard.

Mobile isn't a supremely elegant operating system, but it has the advantage of working well with your computer, and the comfort level of putting everything in the same place even when you change phones.

Nokia's slick, solid **E71** is the narrowest of the trio, and might prove a bit awkward for bulky digits.

It also uses Nokia's own OS, which takes some time to get comfy with.

The **Motorola Rokr** is a pretty phone, and impressively built, with a nice haptic touch interface — essential for a sleek candybar phone with no buttons.

The software and the small screen make it the least user-friendly of the bunch, however.

But rumour has it the company is actively working to overcome this failing.

Finally, **Nokia's 5310** is a small but handy phone if you eschew text and e-mail but want to leave your MP3 player at home.

You're going to need a 4GB MicroSD card to make that work, although the phone's nominal cost makes that more than affordable.

Want **more?**
Go to pages 46-47 for more tech-related gift ideas.

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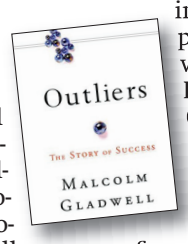
Something for the reader on your list

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

This holiday season, travel to northern Ontario, India, into history and through the minds of the world's greatest achievers by stuffing one of these four books in the stocking of the book lover in your life. Metro recommends these novel reads for a taste of the latest and greatest works by Canadian and international authors.

Outliers: The Story of Success

Author: Malcolm Gladwell
Publisher: H.B Fenn & Company Ltd.
Price: $30.99 (hardcover)



THE CANADIAN-RAISED author of The Tipping Point and Blink and staffer at The New Yorker examines the grounds for greatness in Outliers: The Story of Success. In Outliers, Gladwell begs to relate why certain people are so much more successful than the social norm. While considering factors like culture, birth year, geographic origin and social status, Gladwell identifies real examples to unlock the secrets to success. Among the cases examined, he probes why certain male children excel in hockey compared to others, what Mozart, The Beatles and Bill Gates share that made them successful and the historical reason why Asian kids perform so much better in mathematics than other children.

The Pitchfork 500

Editors: Scott Plagenhoef and Ryan Schreiber
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Canada
Price: $18.99 (paperback)

FROM DAVID BOWIE'S pared down, post-Ziggy tune Heroes, through Björk's Homogenic homage to Iceland, Jóga, to Beirut's Balkan love ballad Postcards from Italy, The Pitchfork 500 picks the top songs "from punk to the present" perfect for the music snob in your life. Assembled by six editors and 38 contributors, and divided by year segments, The Pitchfork 500 provides the genre-spanning back-stories to some of music's greatest songs and artists. Interspersed with niche genre capsules like "Grindcore: Ten Skatepunk Greats" and "Bootybass",

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A selection of books meant to excite young minds

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Fantastic quests, repulsive pests and a wizard's digest fill the pages of the books Metro recommends for your kids this holiday season. Suited for children aged 9 to 12, finding these tales under the tree will surely excite young readers and writers alike on Christmas morning.

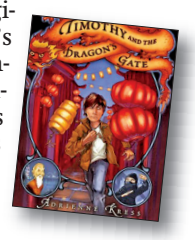
The Search for Vile Things: Vol. 1

Author: Jane Hammerslough
Publisher: Scholastic Canada
Price: $13.99 (hardcover)

FROM THE GROSS to the gripping, the first volume of The Search for Vile Things explores nature's oddities from the East Indes. Guide Ephemera Churlyshe, her employee Tode and relatives Maldred, Wee Nettle and Rune navigate the landscape, discovering animals, natural disasters and human tendencies. Take the plunge to find the sea apple, an underwater creature that shoots poisonous strings from its behind to kill enemies. Or smell the corpse flower, an 8-foot, 4-inch plant covered in insects that reeks of rotting meat. And, before you leave, be sure to try the stinkbug — it may smell bad, but it's edible and tastes smoky when roasted.

Timothy and the Dragon's Gate

Author: Adrienne Kress
Publisher: Scholastic Canada
Price: $16.95 (hardcover)

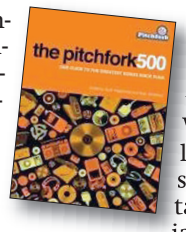


USE YOUR BOOKSTORE gift cards to pick up the latest in the magical children's series by Torontonian Adrienne Kress when it hits stores on Jan. 13. Her novel follows Timothy, a problem child who's just been kicked out of the city's last school. But his biggest problem lies in Mr.

Great stocking stuffer
These men's holiday-themed three-pack boxer tubes are $24 at Old Navy. For more, go to oldnavy.ca. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Holiday Shopping Guide V

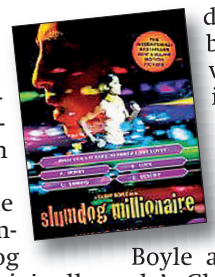
the comprehensive guide contains a euphonically assorted selection that will both entertain and educate even the elitist of audiophiles.



Slumdog Millionaire

Author: Vikas Swarup
Publisher: Harper Perennial
Price: $17.95 (paperback)

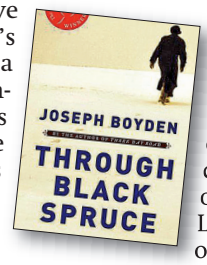
WHEN AN UNLIKELY, uneducated young man from the slums of Mumbai walks away with the top prize on anteupped game show Who Will Win a Billion?, there's certain suspicion his talent for trivia must be the result of cheating. But 18-year-old waiter Ram Mohammad Thomas insists he just knew the answers. In Slumdog Millionaire (originally published as Q&A), Thomas animatedly relives his past to convince a lawyer just how a teen that never read a newspaper went from slumdog to stinking rich. Sparkling and smart, Slumdog Millionaire bridges class and virtue in a touching, modern image of India. The book was adapted to film this year by Trainspotting director Danny Boyle and won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival.



Through Black Spruce

Author: Joseph Boyden
Publisher: Viking Canada
Price: $34 (hardcover)

MEET WILL BIRD. He's the Cree native bush pilot who's found himself in a coma after drunkenly crashing his plane. Meet Annie Bird. She's Will's niece who is consumed by locating her supermodel sister Suzanne. While Will's experiences reflect an archaic Aboriginal way of life, Annie's speak to the modern state of native Canada. Like their generations, Annie and Will's stories seem like they're a world apart. But in Through Black Spruce, Joseph Boyden explores just how similar each character's quest to find his own identity is. Like two tales in one, 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Through Black Spruce contrasts Annie's desolate voyage to North American fashion capitals with Will's tempestuous past in finding the common bond of family.



Next week's lineup

SHORT ON TIME? If you haven't started your shopping yet, pick up Metro on Dec. 24 for a roundup of the best in last-minute gift ideas.

7 shopping days — including today! — remain before Christmas.

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Is The One They Choose
Themselves

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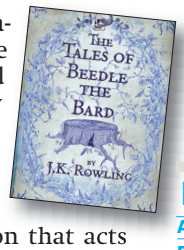
Shen — an employee in the mailroom at his father's work. Mr. Shen holds a secret: he's really a dragon, condemned to a human's body until he traverses a Dragon's Gate at a year of the dragon festival. Timothy must protect Mr. Shen as dragon from a host of villainous characters and, with newfound friend Alex, conquer adversary sea commander the Man in the Beige Linen Suit.

The Tales of Beedle the Bard

Author: J.K. Rowling
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Price: $14.50 (hardcover)

ONE YEAR AGO, J.K. Rowling auctioned off just seven handmade, self-illustrated copies of The Tales of Beedle the Bard, her quintet of short children's stories. But this holiday season sees Rowling finally release the stories for mass publication. The Tales extend on the Harry Potter-mania that shot Rowling to fame, offering a selection that acts to set up the final Potter publication, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Plus, added to the author's darkly imaginative writing is generous commentary by Albus Dumbledore that gives readers even deeper context to a collection of texts within a text.



Frost Bites

Author: Charles Ogden
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Canada
Price: $11.50 (hardcover)

THE NEWEST TALE in the illustrated Edgar and Ellen Nodyssey series is Frost Bites, a topical tale following the title twin siblings as they travel from home for the first time, just to find themselves skiing down their typically slippery slope of misbehaviour. In pursuit of their archenemy Stephanie Knightleigh, the twosome departs their native Nod's Limbs for the chilly village Frøsthaven. But when they arrive, they can't help but reminisce about home. The people and customs they encounter are strangely familiar because they remind them so pointedly of where Edgar and Ellen came from. But to find out why it's so similar, the pair must venture to unfriendly Glöggenheim where trouble is standing between them and their answer.

Get festive
Quo Holiday Emery Boards, $1.99 each at Shoppers Drug Mart. Go to shoppersdrugmart.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide V

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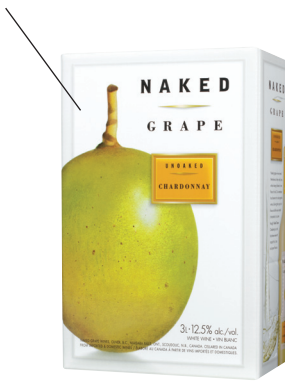
Relax, there's plenty of me to go around this holiday.



Pick up a Naked Grape cask for festive entertaining.
IT TAKES CONFIDENCE TO GO UNOAKED.

Please enjoy responsibly

Embracing tiny technology

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

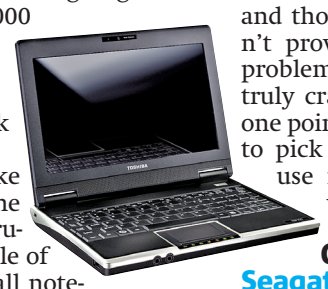
MINI COMPUTERS:
Toshiba Portege R600 ($3,299)
HP Mini 1000 ($399)
Dell Mini 9 ($349)
Toshiba Netbook NB100 ($479)

The day of the monster laptop is ending, with the larger members of the species taking up permanent residence in homes as "desktop replacements," while lighter, nimbler runabout models are taking advantage of the era of USB keys and net storage and losing their disc drives.

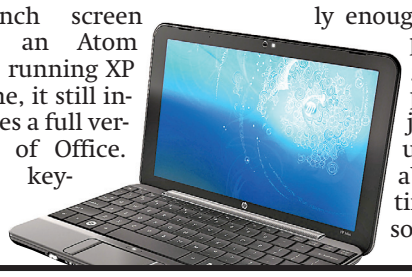
On the high end is **Toshiba's R600**, a sort of AirBook for the PC world. A fully featured Vista machine, it slims down both weight and battery consumption thanks to a 128GB solid state hard drive, but still manages to include a DVD disc drive. There's an eSATA port and two USB slots for outboard memory storage, and a fingerprint reader for paranoid types.

Dell's Mini 9 is the chunkiest of the mini notebooks at 2.28 pounds, and runs XP on an Intel Atom chip on a 16GB solid state drive, though an Ubuntu Linux version is available with a 32GB SSD. It has an 8.9-inch widescreen LED screen, and the keyboard has shifted some peripheral key placement around to fit its tight dimensions (just 9.13 inches).

HP's Mini 1000 is a bit wider than the Mini 9, and the keyboard is a bit more comfortable to use. It's just 2.25 pounds and runs XP on an Atom chip, with a 10.2-inch LED display. It has an SD/MMC card slot like the Dell and a range of hard drive options, from SSD to a 60GB PATA drive. HP is also designing the Mini 1000 with Wireless-G network options to make it the most truly mobile of the small notebooks. It comes with a full suite of MS Office, unlike other minis, which will ship with MS Works (like the Dell above) or Open Office.



Finally, there's **Toshiba's chunky NB100**, the tiniest of the lot, though not the lightest thanks to the 120GB hard drive. With an 8.9-inch screen and an Atom chip running XP Home, it still includes a full version of Office. The keyboard is tiny, and the trackpad tinier, and though the latter didn't prove too much of a problem, typing proved a truly cramped affair — at one point I actually wanted to pick the thing up and use my thumbs like I was texting.



OTHER STUFF:
Seagate Showcase ($199.99 for Rogers customers)
If you're always deleting shows to make space on your PVR, this memory extender should do the trick. Available with either a USB or eSATA connection, it'll add up to 300 hours to your Scientific Atlanta 8300 PVR and installs easily enough after a couple of pluggings and unpluggings. In just a few minutes, you'll be able to save entire hockey seasons.

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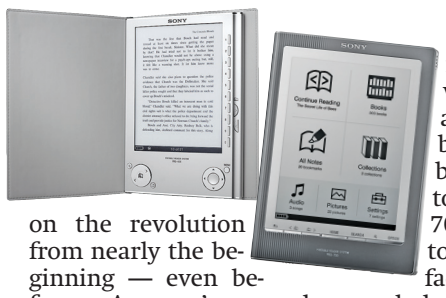
Stocking stuffer
This Christmas Kisses bar, $6.95, is available at Lush locations across Canada. For more, go to lush.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

OTHER STUFF:

Sony Reader PRS-505 ($299)

Sony Reader PRS-700 ($399)



The paperless library might be further in the future than the paperless office even, but the day will come when most of us do our reading on sheets of e-ink rather than pulped trees, and Sony has been in on the revolution from nearly the beginning — even before Amazon's much-hyped Kindle.

The two current models of **Sony's Reader** are actually very different; the PRS-505 is slightly more low-tech, with page turns and menu accessible through small but discrete buttons, while the PRS-700 has a slicker touchscreen interface with page turns made by a flick of the finger. Reading an e-book requires an adjustment of mere minutes, and it was easy to forget that you were reading a screen instead of a page.

The PRS-700 includes a ring of LEDs bordering the screen for reading in low light situations, which will drain the battery more rapidly, though insomniac frequent fliers might appreciate the option. Both models will accept a variety of document types, including PDFs and Word files, though it's happiest with e-books bought from Sony's store, which is impressive enough for readers who shop from mainstream book shops.

Belkin Conserve surge protector ($49.99)

For the energy-conscious environmentalist — or merely the stingy — **Belkin's Conserve surge protector** lets you split your computer or home electronics gear into two groups: Stuff that has to be on 24/7, and the peripherals that draw phantom power even when they're supposed to be off. With a flick of the remote — designed like an oversized light switch — you can cut the power off to the peripherals and start whittling down your power bills.

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Fragments Jewellers
Great Canadian News
Great Steak & Potato Company
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Billy's Best Bottles

"'Tis time to fill the wine rack for the holidays. My rule for this is to shop for variety — different wines for different moods and situations." To read this week's column, visit metronews.ca METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Just 5 Things: Easy Gourmet Cooking with Just a Handful of Ingredients is true to its word — all recipes contain only five ingredients."

Metro News Services

In colour

The Reader's Digest book, by Rachel Lane, contains more than 330 recipes, all illustrated with full-colour photographs.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Try these season's eatings

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer

Sticky Toffee Pudding is a classic dessert of British origins. It is a winter dessert when warm and comforting — it really hits the spot. There are just about as many recipes for sticky toffee pudding (also referred to as sticky date pudding) as people who make them. Hope you enjoy this one. Wishing you delicious season's eatings!

BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO CANADA

There are just about as many recipes for sticky toffee pudding (also referred to as sticky date pudding) as people who make them.

Sticky Toffee Puddings

The puddings and the sauce can be made a day ahead, just cool, cover and refrigerate separately. The easiest way to reheat is briefly in the microwave —individually about 20 to 30 seconds until warm not hot. Don't overheat or they will go rubbery. Reheat sauce in microwave until warm. Look for honey dates in the produce section rather than the firm, pressed dated in the baking section. Makes 8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) pitted dates (about 8 oz/250 g), chopped
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) boiling water
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla
- 1-1/4 cups (300 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) dark brown sugar
- 2 eggs

Toffee Sauce:

- 3/4 cup (175 mL) dark brown sugar
- 4 tsp (20 mL) cornstarch
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

METHOD:

Place dates and baking soda in a heatproof bowl. Pour boiling water over, stir and submerge dates in water; let stand 10 minutes until dates are well-softened. Mash with a fork. Stir in vanilla.

"Sticky Toffee Pudding is a classic dessert of British origins. It is a winter dessert when warm and comforting — it really hits the spot."

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Butter 8 ramekin or custard cups. Whisk together flour, baking powder and salt, set aside.

In a bowl, beat butter and brown sugar together until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in flour mixture then date mixture until evenly mixed (don't overmix). Divide batter between cups, filling about 3/4's full.

Place ramekins on a baking sheet and bake until puddings spring back when lightly touched or toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Transfer ramekins to wire rack to cool 10 minutes. Run a knife around edges to loosen.

While puddings are baking, make sauce. In a 4 cup (1 L) glass measure or bowl, whisk sugar and cornstarch together. Whisk in milk until smooth. Microwave, uncovered at high for 2 to 3 minutes or until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Whisk a few times during cooking. Stir in butter until melted, then vanilla. Makes about 1-1/4 cups (300 mL).

To serve, turn warm puddings out onto individual plates and serve warm with warm Toffee Sauce.

Tips:

- Baking soda added to warm water for soaking the dates softens and tenderizes the rather leathery skin of dried dates.
- Another way to reheat puddings: Invert all the puddings into a baking dish. Poke holes in puddings with a toothpick or thin skewer. Pour half the sauce over the puddings and heat in a 300°F (150°C) oven until warm, about 10 minutes. Poking holes allows the sauce to soak into the cakes rather than just sit on top. Serve with remaining warm sauce (you might want to make a double batch of sauce!).

When the days are short and the long, cold nights descend early, the Festival of Chanukah arrives. The flickering lights of the Chanukah menorah (chanukiah) will join the lights of the Shabbos candles. It's time, once again to recall the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago, when a small band of Maccabees were victorious over their enemies and a little jar of oil, enough to burn for only one day, miraculously burned for eight.

In honour of the miracle which occurred with oil, it is traditional to eat foods fried in oil. Potato latkas and sufganiot (Israeli-style doughnuts) are popular. Dairy dishes are also customary and this recipe from Norene's Healthy Kitchen — Eat Your Way to Good Health by Norene Gilletz (Whitecap Books, $35) is both light and decadent.

Decadent Marbled Cheesecake

Recipe can be made up to 3 to 4 days ahead (store in refrigerator). Leftovers, if any, can be frozen. Makes 12 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb (500 g) light cream cheese, cut in chunks

"When the days are short and the long, cold nights descend early, the Festival of Chanukah arrives."

- 1/2 lb (250 g) nonfat pressed (smooth) cottage cheese, cut into chunks
- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs plus 2 egg whites (or 3 eggs)
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Passover brandy or liqueur
- 3 oz (75 g) dark, bittersweet chocolate, melted (or ½ cup/125 mL) chocolate chips)

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Fill a baking pan half-full with water and place it on the bottom rack of the oven. (The steam helps prevent the cheesecake from cracking.) Spray a 10-inch ceramic quiche dish with cooking spray.

In a food processor fitted with steel blade, process cream cheese, cottage cheese and sugar until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add eggs and brandy; process until well-mixed, about 25 to 30 seconds longer. (Don't overprocess.) Remove 1 cup (250 mL) batter and mix with melted chocolate until blended.

Pour the white batter into prepared dish. Pour chocolate batter over white batter in a wide circle, about 1/2-inch (1 cm) in from the sides of the dish; there should be a bull's-eye of white batter in the center. Cut through the batter carefully with a knife to create a marbled effect. Don't blend the batter too much or the marbled effect will disappear.

Bake on middle rack for 30 to 35 minutes or until centre jiggles slightly when you shake the dish, but cheesecake won't be sticky when touched lightly with your fingertips. Let cool completely, then cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

- For more recipes from Norene, visit gourmania.com.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Wines that start with robust awards and finish with subtle notes of I-can't-believe-the-price.

From $8.95 to $29.95, Jackson-Triggs has wines that are suited to any holiday gathering. Voted Best Canadian Winery an unprecedented 19 times in global competitions, most recently by *Wine Access* and the International Wine and Spirits Competition, London, England, you can be confident you're serving wines of exceptional quality and value. Discover them at LCBO, Wine Rack and our winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bring on the night.

Please enjoy responsibly. jacksontriggswinery.com

Finding the perfect dress

Still in search of the perfect holiday dress? Try Champagne & Cupcakes, one of Toronto's newest dress shops. Located at 1114 Queen St. W., this boutique caters to ladies in search of creative and feminine dresses at affordable prices. Call 416-737-5504. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

A fashion statement with a message

Italian jewelry line DeMaria is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a unique and timeless collection. The jewelry line includes pendants, bracelets and rings, left, engraved with words and phrases taken directly from the original document. Each item is made of solid 925 silver and comes in a variety of plating including white silver, yellow gold and black ruthenium. Ranging in price from $350 to $475, the collection is available at Exclusive Diamonds, Sherway Gardens. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Locks are leaning to soft, playful

Braids, pixie cuts and loose up-dos are hot trends for the holidays

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada

You've picked out the shoes, nabbed the perfect party outfit and accessorized with the most beautiful baubles.

But putting together your holiday ensemble doesn't have to end there. Certain hair colourists and stylists vouch that it's a great time of year to change your look by trying out some of this season's most glamorous hairstyles.

"It's an exciting time, a time where you want to put forth your best self," says Marcy Cona, the creative director of colour and style for Clairol.

Cona, who also owns M.C. Hair Consultants in Ohio, has spent more than 25 years helping women choose the cut and colour that best suits their features. She says during these winter months, whether it's for a holiday event or just everyday wear, many of her clients are eager to switch their hairstyles.

"I feel like people are looking for a change," she said. "I really believe women certainly want to follow the trends but they also want the best look for them. It's a combination of the right colour and the right haircut that works for their lifestyle."

One of the most sought-after hair trends is to go shorter in length, says Cona. She predicts that over the winter and through to spring, women will be chopping off their locks to embrace styles such as the bob or pixie cut.

Philippe Fiorio, of Fiorio Beauty Academy and Hair Salon, agrees that shorter hair is the way to go.

"The shorter looks can make you look very young, sexy and feminine," he says.

Another style Cona says is hot for the holiday season is braiding. She adds that braiding is versatile because it can work for all types of hair and complement different outfits.

"It's a really subtle way, instead of just a simple ponytail, to add texture and dimension to your hair," she said. "It gives you that sense of being dressed up and put together as opposed to just having your hair down."

For those who prefer up-dos, Fiorio suggests keeping things softer and more fun.

"We're finding a lot of people are getting away from the conservative chignon," he adds.

Like Fiorio, Cona says that loose waves, pinned back into an up-do, are preferred over hairspray-soaked curls.

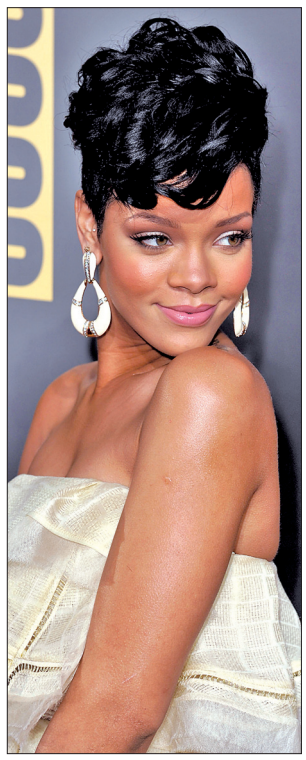
In terms of colour, colourist Christopher Martin of Shagg Salon in Toronto says that women are choosing overall colour instead of highlights. He also says that whether you colour at the salon or at home, glossy hair colour is the dominant trend.

"There's going to be a lot more shine into spring," said Martin.

Cona also says that shiny hair is the best accompaniment to a fabulous 'do.

"I love hair colour that has a balance of many different tones, many different shades," she says. "Not flat, dull and lifeless."

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES



The holidays are a great time of year to change your look, say hair experts. This year's trends include braiding (see actress Milla Jovovich, above, and actress Blake Lively, far right) and bob or pixie cuts (see actress Katie Holmes, right, and singer Rhianna, above right). Also taking precedence is glossy, solid coloured hair.

What you'll need

• For a cute pixie or bob 'do like Rhianna or Katie Holmes, try Joico Design Collection Gloss Wax light hold/maximum shine, $21, or Pliable Paste firm hold/matte finish, also $21, from the same collection. Available at most professional salons.

• For luxurious shine, try Herbal Essences All That Shine treatment, $9.99. Available at most mass drug stores.

• SunSilk Volumizing Spray-On Mousse from the new Daring Volume collection, $4.99. Available at most mass drug stores.

• Celebrate the season's all over colour (as opposed to highlights) trend with a colour like Perfect 10 by Nice 'n Easy's lightest cool brown, $15.99. Other colours include black, dark auburn and light blond. Available at most mass drug stores.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

HO-CHRIS NICHOLLS/CP PHOTO

The tuck 'n' tie dress from designer Linda Lundstrom is inspired by Robert Munsch's The Paper Bag Princess book.

Lundstrom bounces back with new label name, collection

Earlier this year, it appeared Linda Lundstrom would be forced to call a premature wrap on her decades-long career in fashion after filing for bankruptcy protection.

The designer is poised to end 2008 on a far brighter note, back in business with new ownership and revamped label name — Lundstrom — as she unveils her spring-summer 2009 collection.

Lundstrom's original company, launched in 1974, garnered acclaim with its signature Laparka wool coats.

By the end of 2006, she had produced 150,000 of the iconic coats in more than 130 different colours in up to 30 different motifs in collaboration with First Nations artists.

But in late January, Lundstrom filed for bankruptcy protection, citing significant business reversals in 2007, compounded by a high loonie and other factors in the retail environment. Within two months of the filing, Eleventh Floor Apparel Ltd. purchased the rights to the designer's name, assets and manufacturing plant of her former company.

"Designing can be a fairly lonely thing."
Linda Lundstrom

She has now transitioned from owner and entrepreneur to the role of chief creative officer, responsible for designing seasonal collections, working in collaboration with Karen Spisak, Eleventh Floor Apparel's vice-president of brand development.

"Designing can be a fairly lonely thing," Lundstrom said.

"With this new arrangement with Karen, she now sees every single garment before it's approved to go into the line, and I really like that, because sometimes I really need another set of eyes to look at something."

Lundstrom recently showcased pieces from her new collection featuring a compilation of streamlined separates in neutral shades.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boutique style bridal show
Find everything from favours to florists at The Wedding Show, Toronto's only boutique-style bridal show. The event takes place at The Carlu (Yonge and College) from Jan. 9 to 11. Admission is $20. For more information, visit *theweddingco.com*. METRO

Heating up the holidays

Style **File**

ask kim

I bought a New Year's Eve dress that's a tad tight and now I need to buy shapewear that will smooth out the appearance of my undergarments. Do you have any suggestions?

We've all gone running to Spanx, but the U.S.-based company isn't the only one helping us out when it comes to unwanted bulges; Joe Fresh carries similar body-slimming shorts and Vancouver designer Twin Syndrome is shaping our tummies with high-waisted underwear.

E-mail your style questions to *kim.elbo@gmail.com.*

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

Bodysuit
Designer: La Senza
Shop: La Senza
Address: Various Locations
lasenza.com

Embroidered Bodice
Designer: Change
Price: Top - $145, Bottom- $38
Shop: Change
Address: Various Locations
change.com

Lacy Basque
Designer: Agent Provocateur
Shop: Agent Provocateur
agentprovocateur.com

Bathrobe
Designer: Aerie
Shop: Aerie
Address: Various Locations
ae.com

Silk Robe
Designer: Change
Shop: Change
Address: Various Locations
change.com

Sheer Kimono
Designer: Madame V
Shop: Flesh
fleshlingerie.com

Lingerie

Surprise your man this holiday with a little lace. Body-skimming lace, ruffles, garters and fishnets are all the things needed for a good night. Wear these garments underneath your holiday dress or keep them bedside for a special night. Head to Agent Provocateur for kinky but classy luxe lingerie and accessories. If your budget is a little tight, La Senza has got you (semi) covered with sheer body suits and sassy camis and bottoms from the new Pussycat Dolls collection.

Robes

Cover up before you get out of bed. Whether you're gifting or buying for yourself, here are the three must-have robes for your boudoir. The kimono robe is a popular cut that will never go out of style. The sheer kimono by Madame V is a Katie Holmes-Cruise favourite. The silk robe is the type worn over lingerie, it's elegant and feels soft against the skin. And the plush terry cloth robe is perfect for the spa feel and great after a long bath.

tip: Always lay your underwire bras flat to dry, never put them in the dryer. Over time the heat from machine drying can warp and distort the wires in your bra.

accessory
Are you naughty or nice? Use it as a blindfold or simply for sleeping. Available at Agent Provocateur *(agentprovocateur.com)*

Scotch Red Shoe Tape Dispenser, $14.99.

Add style to your office space

SHOPPING Make the task of wrapping gifts more enjoyable this season or surprise a shoeaholic on your gift list with the Scotch Red Shoe Tape Dispenser.

This cute cherry red Mary Jane-style shoe tape dispenser holds regular and super-sized rolls of tape and is made in Canada.

Available now at major retailers nationwide including Wal-Mart, Staples, Chapters/Indigo, Rexall and Grand & Toy for $10-$14.99. It includes one roll of Scotch magic 810 tap.

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Mamma Mia sinks Titanic

Meryl Streep has sunk the Titanic in international waters. The unflagging cheerfulness of Abba conquered the red-hot chemistry between Leo and Kate this week as Mamma Mia! nudged aside the 11-time Oscar winner as the top-grossing film of all time at the U.K. box office. **EONLINE.COM**

Entertainment

Twilight pirate?

Will Rob Pattinson be joining Johnny Depp's band of buccaneers in the upcoming Pirates of the Caribbean instalment? An unsourced rumour claims the Twilight star might join the franchise. **EONLINE.COM**

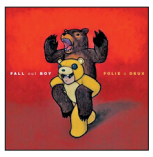
EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Fall Out Boy whips up prog-pop

All-American Rejects lack bite, Ghostface gets festive and Keyshia Cole sings different tune

Fall Out **Boy**

Album: Folie a Deux
Label: Island
Rating: ◍◍◍



FALL OUT BOY throws its punk pop identity out the window in exchange for something much grander and ambitious in scope. It seems that lyricist/bassist Pete Wentz is now moving in much loftier circles since marrying pop princess Ashlee Simpson. He's rubbing musical elbows with Elvis Costello, Lil Wayne and Deborah Harry, who add vocals to this album. The band's pop sensibilities remain, but are almost lost in a mix of strings, keyboards and uberdense production. The band seems to be striving to create something that could only be called prog-pop. A noble cause. There are times when it works with huge success like on What A Catch Donnie, but at others it lacks focus. This CD may turn off old fans and probably won't win Fall Out Boy any new ones. Still the band gets major points for trying to break out of its cocoon.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

MusicReviews
music@metronews.ca

All-American **Rejects**

Album: When The World Comes Down
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ◍◍½

WHINEY POP rock from Oklahoma. Insipid lyrics, like "breakin' is what your heart is for," make it obvious that this band's name has more bite than its music. The All-American Rejects' third album is made partly palatable by the gang vocals on Gives You Hell, the unabashed adolescent pawing of I Wanna and the surprisingly sophisticated vocal mix with folk-rockers Catherine and Allison Pierce (The Pierces) on Another Heart Calls.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

All-American Rejects make it obvious that this band's name has more bite than its music.

Keyshia **Cole**

Album: A Different Me
Label: Geffen/Universal
Rating: ◍◍◍½

AFTER RELEASING an album titled Just Like You, some Keyshia Cole fans might be a bit concerned by the name of their R&B super-starlet's follow-up, A Different Me. They can relax. Cole's mastery of the smooth, infectious soul hasn't waned, and it's still on full display here. What's different is her attitude. While she's usually focused on pain and hurt, this time around the Oakland-born songstress is far more upbeat and positive — both in her lyrics, which are generally about relationships, and her music. It's a great step forward for this rising star.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Souljaboy

Album: iSouljaBoyTellem
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ◍◍

WITH ITS EASILY accessible beats and urban dictionary rap cliches, this is an album that will be grooved to by suburban 12-year-old boys who still haven't figured out how silly they look in their crooked ball caps and bling. Its subject matter deals with the joys of swag, booty, Gucci accessories, and, most of all, Souljaboy. It's like this 18-year-old wonder still can't believe he's hit the big time. Well, frankly, neither can we.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Ghostface **Killah**

Album: GhostDeini The Great
Label: Def Jam/Universal
Rating: ◍◍◍

IF THERE'S ONE thing everyone can count on during the holiday season it's a new Ghostface Killah album. This year — his third consecutive Xmas time release — the prolific Wu-Tang member has offered up a collection of unreleased tracks, remixes of existing tunes and a hilarious Ghostface Christmas rap. While this potential stocking stuffer isn't as good as some of his other releases, this album's versions of All That I Got Is You, with Mary J. Blige and Back Like That, with Kanye, should make his fans anxious for Santa Claus to arrive.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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Are you getting more stressed out as the holidays approach? Does the mere thought of not finding the perfect gift for each person, entertaining people at home, or finding the right dress for the office party make you nervous? The holiday season is supposed to be fun... but for those who need to juggle work, a household, gifts and entertaining, it can sometimes seem like an obstacle course.
Here are a few basic rules to follow in order to avoid getting too stressed out and to help you enjoy this special season.
Have fun
Once your guests are in the house, relax and enjoy their presence. You'll notice that people are always willing to lend a hand, so accept it if they offer. Also, there's no shame in not having everything on the table when the guests arrive.
(continued online...)
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Alba goes to The Office
Jessica Alba is set to appear on The Office. The actress will appear in a February episode, straight after the Superbowl. IMDB.COM

JASON DECROS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neil Young performs at Madison Square Garden in New York earlier this month.

Neil Young career chronicled on DVD

More details have been revealed about the first volume of Neil Young's comprehensive career retrospective, which is expected to be released on DVD and Blu-ray discs next year.

A five-minute preview posted on YouTube boasts the 10-disc set, Neil Young Archives, Vol. 1: 1963-1972, is "the most ambitious artist collection ever produced."

It has 128 tracks, including 43 unreleased recordings. Because the package is being released on DVD and Blu-ray, the music can be packaged with thousands of images of photos, lyric sheets, letters and memorabilia.

The set also includes hours of video in high definition and a 236-page hardcover book.

"Previous technology required unacceptable quality compromises ... I am glad we waited and got it right." Neil Young

The release of the box set has already been delayed but it's tentatively scheduled to go on sale Feb. 24 for more than $300 US.

Young plans to release more box sets in the future chronicling the rest of his career.

He has also released a number of concert recordings recently — including Live at Massey Hall 1971 and Sugar Mountain: Live at Canterbury House 1968 — with more to follow.

Young said earlier this year that he waited for new technology to come along before compiling all his archived matter, because he didn't think CDs would do the project justice.

The Blu-ray package can also be updated through the Internet when new material becomes available.

"Previous technology required unacceptable quality compromises," Young said in May in a statement.

"I am glad we waited and got it right."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heston, Newman among 2008's celebrity deaths

Charlton Heston's powerful screen presence dominated The Ten Commandments and Ben-Hur. Paul Newman portrayed lovable rogues in smaller-scale films that reflected changing attitudes toward sex and society.

Moses and Michelangelo. Hud, Butch Cassidy and Cool Hand Luke. Heston and Newman created indelible roles on screen — and strove to shape their world as well, through activism that put them on opposite sides politically.

Heston

They were two of the fascinating figures in the arts and entertainment world who died in 2008.

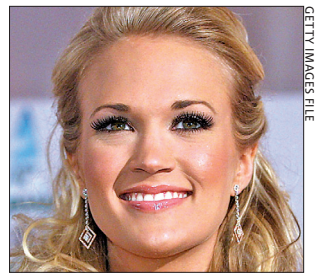
Born more than a half-century after them, Heath Ledger had his life cut short by a drug overdose, never seeing the phenomenal success of The Dark Knight.

Miriam Makeba, Odetta and Yma Sumac were three exotic queens of song, who taught mainstream audiences in America — and the world — new ways of hearing and appreciating music.

George Carlin brought a counterculture spin to standup comedy and influenced every comedian to follow.

We also said goodbye to Bo Diddley and producer Jerry Wexler, giants of rhythm and blues and rock. Studs Terkel illuminated the lives of ordinary Americans, weaving their reminiscences into moving best-sellers such as The Good War. Arthur C. Clarke took us to new worlds with 2001: A Space Odyssey. Alexander Solzhenitsyn heroically challenged the Soviet system by revealing the horrors of the gulag.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


GETTY IMAGES FILE

Carrie Underwood

Underwood to sing at People's Choice Awards

AWARDS The People's Choice Awards says Carrie Underwood will perform at its 35th annual ceremony next month.

The awards show, airing Jan. 7 on CBS, will be hosted by Queen Latifah at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, organizers said yesterday. The People's Choice trophies go to fan favourites in TV, movies and music. Underwood went from American Idol winner to a country music star whose hits include Just a Dream and Jesus, Take the Wheel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No charges laid in alleged Beckham mansion thefts

Police say no charges will be filed after they investigated allegations of theft from David and Victoria Beckham's British mansion.

Three people, two of whom had worked for the celebrity couple as housekeepers, were arrested in October. British media reported that the arrests came after some of the couple's possessions — soccer memorabilia and dresses — were spotted on an Internet auction site.

Hertfordshire Police said yesterday that after consulting with prosecutors, no charges will be filed in the alleged theft from the mansion in Sawbridgeworth, northwest of London. They said the "injured party" was aware of the status of the case, but provided no further details.

A spokesman for the Beckhams did not immediately return a phone call.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HBO signs deal with Oprah

HBO announced Tuesday that the cable network had signed an exclusive multi-year deal with Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Films to develop and produce scripted television programming. TVGUIDE.COM

Pratt, Montag wedding no. 2 staged?

Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag don't appear to be any closer to getting legally hitched.

A brief tease for the fourth season finale of MTV's The Hills that aired Monday seemed to indicate that the reality TV couple have made their unofficial Mexican wedding ceremony legitimate.

The pair were shown walking into a courtroom with Pratt's sister, Stephanie Pratt, while a judge smiled down on them from the bench.

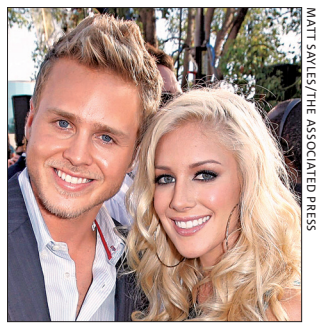
"I, Heidi, take thee, Spencer," Montag coos.

Despite the official trappings, the tease of legitimate nuptials for the pair may be just that. A Los Angeles Superior Court official said Tuesday that MTV was recently granted permission to shoot in a courtroom in Beverly Hills after hours — and it's not one of their judges in The Hills footage.

MTV was granted permission to film "what purported to be a wedding outside of court hours" at the Beverly Hills courthouse, court spokesman Allan Parachini said Tuesday. He did not know who the participants were, but said court officials wanted the filming to be treated as a news event.

Civil ceremonies are sometimes performed at the courthouse, but if a judge does preside, it is typically in chambers during a break, Parachini said.

Pratt, 25, and Montag, 22, acknowledged that their Nov. 19 marriage ceremony near Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, was entirely symbolic. Monday's episode of The Hills depicted the pair spontaneously agreeing to exchange vows after downing several shots of tequila. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

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SOURCE: NADbank Fall 2007/Spring 2008 Survey, read yesterday; BASE: Montreal, Ottawa-Gatineau, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver; CMA 18+

Akon pleads guilty
Akon has pleaded guilty to a charge of harassment in the second degree over an incident where a kid was thrown off stage during a 2007 concert. TMZ.COM

‘Worst possible message,’ Idol judge says

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

WHAT HAPPENED? Whether you’re a fan of Canadian Idol or not — and I have always been firmly in the latter camp — you can’t help but wonder just why a national network would put on hiatus a show that they’d spend six seasons trumpeting as a ratings triumph and a cultural landmark that only they could have made happen.

The only thing that’s clear right now is that CTV didn’t want the news of the show’s one-year “rest” to break as quickly as it did this week, but a groundswell of online buzz fed by the grumbling that happens when you pink-slip hundreds of cast and crew — aided in perhaps the smallest way by my own inquiries on Tuesday — forced them to make a curt but definitive statement.

I still needed answers, however, so I called up Zack Werner, the only Idol personality who has, so far, made any public statements on the news.

After giving me some grief for my anti-Idol statements, Werner said that while he’s not privy to the budgets or decisions made at CTV or by Insight, Idol’s production company, “I do know that every year when we go to renew our deal with the show we’re always told that the show is prohibitively expensive and Canadian advertisers are always a hard sell to get them to put any money into a Canadian property.

“And that given the dearth of automobile advertising that’s going to go on in the future, that the sales team at CTV came back to the powers that be and told them that they couldn't make their nut.”

Werner says that one of the reasons they were given for the network’s belt-tightening was the cost of their Olympic commitments.

“They paid $100 million for the Olympics, at a time when the economy looked booming, and now they’ve got to sell the advertising for that,” he said, which quickly led to a discussion of just how CTV will replace Idol in their schedule.

CTV PHOTO

Canadian Idol judge Zack Werner says the decision to place the show on hiatus next year is bad timing.

“It begs the question — so you’re going to put on a less expensive show where advertisers pay less money on slots on shows that are going to have fewer viewers?

“And you’re going to pay the license fee, which they’re going to have to pay to Fremantle (Idol’s parent company) whether they do the show or not. So the combination of paying the license fee and putting on cheaper programming and selling the advertising for less makes more economic sense than putting on our show — I think that begs some questions, don’t you?”

At the risk of sounding altruistic — “because I’m not the most altruistic person in the world” — Werner wonders what message is being sent to the “thousands of kids who, at a time when the economy is selling them a picture that the future is bleak, if you ever needed a dream, and a dream that gave you a chance to compete for it becoming a reality, and understanding what it means to work hard and have an option, now is the time when we need a show like this.

“Unfortunately, it’s the worst possible message they could be sending out.”

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

AGO director receives award

ART Matthew Teitelbaum, director and chief executive of the Art Gallery of Ontario, has received a $20,000 award for his work to expand and update the gallery.

“The Transformation AGO project is inspirational to the entire Canadian art world and sets a standard by which all public institutions can and should aspire,” said David Liss, artistic director of the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, which sponsors the award with BMO Financial Group.

Architect Frank Gehry’s $276-million renovation of the AGO opened in November. The award will be presented at an April 23 gala.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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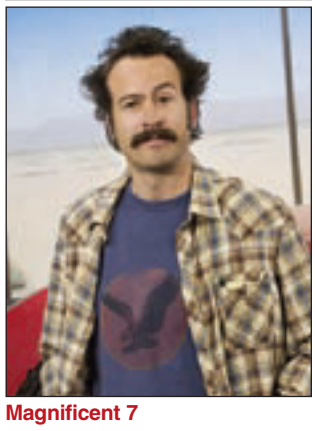
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Mall Santa (N)		*Bad Santa* ★★★ (2003, Comedy) Billy Bob Thornton.				News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Montreal Canadiens. From the Bell Centre in Montreal.						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (HDTV)		30 Rock	30 Rock	30 Rock	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Miami		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Secret Millionaire (N)		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		X-Weighted		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Le 35e de la nuit: Les frogs		Rêver le francais		*Les Espions* (1957, Suspense) Peter Ustinov, Véra Clouzot.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case “Debut”		News (N)		News (N)		Two-Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville “Instinct”		Supernatural (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Million Dollar Password		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim	The Office	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Office	News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Grey’s Anatomy		(10:01) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Million Dollar Password		Private Practice		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Secret Millionaire (N)		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Great Performances San Francisco Ballet’s interpretation of “The Nutcracker.”						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville “Instinct”		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	’70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk’d
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Hobbit Enigma		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				American Greed		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Boston Bruins. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That’s Hockey!	Interruption	NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at Jacksonville Jaguars. (HDTV) (Live)						Curling
	411	457	58	OLN	(6) The Amazing Race 7		Crusoe “The Mutineers”		Survivorman		Pilot Guides		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	A Flintstone Christmas		Pinky & Brain	Pinky & Brain	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Code Monkeys
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That’s-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned’s School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Friends	Will & Grace	Confidential	Shopping Bags	*Catch a Falling Star* ★★ (2000, Romance) Sela Ward.				what’s cooking
	570	580	29	MM	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		So You Think You Can Dance Canada				Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Dance
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami “Pro Per”		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Black Widow
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L’Uomo Perfetto				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Johnny Cash: Man in Black		Listed		Tommy Lee	Where You At	Celeb Wrestle
	575	583	38	CMT	Paul Brandt’s Christmas		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	616	521	39	SHO	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis (HDTV)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	NUMB3RS (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		The Nutcracker (N)				Snapshot	In the Mind ...	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	Last 10	Last 10	The Biggest Loser (Part 2 of 2)		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS “Model Behavior”		Lost Worlds Cold War.		Battlefield Mysteries		NCIS “Model Behavior”		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Choc. News	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*Underworld* ★★ (2003, Horror)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	*Idlewild* ★★★ (2006, Drama) André Benjamin, Paula Patton.					American Gangster (N)		Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost “Enter 77”		Star Trek: Voyager		Famous Monster		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	A Double Shot of Love		True Life		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	In Search of Perfection		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Waiting for God		*A Holiday Romance* ★★ (1999, Drama) Naomi Judd.				On, Mountain
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Books-Film	TMZ (N)	etalk	Staying Young in Hollywood		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Go, Diego, Go!	Nght Grdn	Backyardigans	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Bob-Bldr
	115	711	101	TVA	Clodine		*Faux départ* ★★ (2006, Com. Sentimentale)			Juste pour rire	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) *Lucia, Lucia* (2003)	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Rétrospective/hommage à		Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*First Sunday*	*Surviving My Mother* (2007), Ellen David			*Romulus, My Father* ★★ (2007, Drama) Eric Bana.				*Charlie Wilson*
	305	612	306	PIX	(5:20) *Ararat*	(7:20) *Bandido* ★★ (1956, Adventure)			*Get Carter* ★ (2000, Suspense)			(10:45) *Formula 51*	

critics’corner

My Name Is Earl
Time for a reshuffling of Earl’s (Jason Lee) list. One particular item becomes a matter of life and death and jumps to the top when a mysterious man moves next door to Earl and Randy (Ethan Suplee). Joy (Jaime Pressly) has her eyes on a prize — a monetary award in a science fair — “Sold a Guy a Lemon Car.” 8 PM on NBC



Magnificent 7
How people manage a family with more than a couple of kids is a mystery. This 2005 TV movie celebrates the life of Jacqui Jackson, a woman with seven children — four of whom are autistic. Played by Helena Bonham Carter (with the character’s name changed to Maggi), she teaches those around her to accept the differences found in people. Liam Boyle, Christopher Parkinson and Anna Sainsbury co-star. 9 PM on TVO

Hasselbeck receives apology

The View's Elisabeth Hasselbeck has received an apology from the White House after not receiving an invite to its annual Christmas party. Hasselback voiced her discontent at not being invited on The View on Tuesday. TVGUIDE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Madge, Guy slam settlement story

SETTLEMENT Madonna and Guy Ritchie are slamming recent stories about their divorce settlement, people.com reports.

The joint statement — issued in London — came just days after Madonna's U.S. rep gave the Associated Press details of the supposed deal. Liz Rosenberg said that Madonna, 50, was set to hand over cash and property worth between $76 million US and $92 million US, calling it "one of the largest (divorce) payouts ever."

But now the couple calls that information "misleading and inaccurate."

The statement reads: "We have tried to maintain a dignified silence regarding the details of our divorce for the last few months whilst accepting the obvious media interest … The financial details of the settlement will remain private, save to say that both of us are happy with our agreement.

"Our primary concern, like any co-parents, is the care and well being of our children."

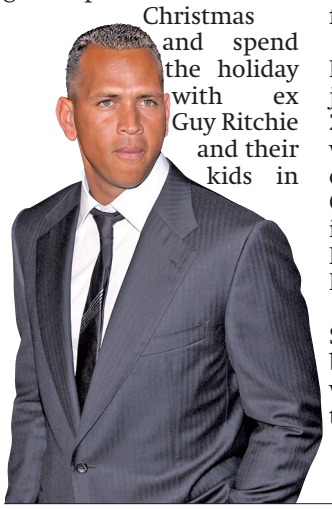
The couple — whose divorce will become final in January — have two sons, Rocco, 8, David, 3. Madonna has a daughter, Lourdes, 12, from her relationship with Carlos Leon.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

A-Rod to Christmas with Madonna?

HOLIDAYS Guess who's coming home for Christmas? Madonna had agreed to give up her New York Christmas and spend the holiday with ex Guy Ritchie and their kids in the U.K., but there's a catch, hollyscoop.com reports. Her boy toy Alex Rodriguez is coming along for the ride.



The website reports that Madonna and her kids will jet to London on December 23 and stay for Christmas, while A-Rod takes a different flight out right before Christmas and hangs out in a hotel waiting for Madonna to finish playing Mommy.

A source tells the UK Sun: "She wants the kids to be with their parents but wants time with A-Rod too."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gwyn's mom dismisses divorce talk

RUMOURS Gwyneth Paltrow's mother Blythe Danner has dismissed reports the actress' marriage to rocker Chris Martin is in trouble, insisting the gossip stems from their refusal to pose for pictures together, wenn.com reports.

The couple has been plagued by rumours of an impending split, speculation that increased after Paltrow was recently spotted partying in the U.S. with pal Madonna, while Martin tours the U.K. with his band Coldplay.

But Paltrow's actress mother insists they are still a couple. Danner tells Foxnews.com, "They don't take pictures together if they can avoid it. It's a strategy. They don't want the pandemonium.

"They're staying in England for the New Year. Then coming here (to New York)."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Prenup for Brangelina?

PRENUP While there's been no official word that they are getting married, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are reportedly hammering out the details of a $200 million US prenuptial agreement, according to Star magazine.

Pitt "wants a prenup in place that spells out everything — their finances, their property and who will raise their children in case something happens," a source tells the magazine.

But according to another source close to the couple, Jolie thinks such an agreement suggests "that deep down Brad may still harbour doubts."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan runs into her stalker

RUN IN Lindsay Lohan came face-to-face with her suspected stalker Tuesday night while leaving a club outside Phoenix recently, popeater.com reports.

The website says she and Samantha Ronson were exiting the Jackrabbit Lounge when a man in the crowd jumped Lohan, trying to go around club security to meet her.

The 38-year old man was tackled by police and arrested for disorderly conduct.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spears rekindling Fed romance?

GOSSIP Britney Spears is reportedly trying to make it work once again with ex-husband Kevin Federline — and she's even asked him to move back in with her, Look magazine reports.

"Kevin has been staying over a lot, but I don't think it will be long until they are living together full-time again," a source told the magazine. "They have slipped back into their old relationship really easily."

Spears and Federline, who have two children together, have reportedly been seeing a counselor to help draw up rules for the rekindled relationship, while Spears' friends think Federline is just after her money.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kidman warned she may be 'barren'

CULTURE Nicole Kidman has been warned she may not have any more children — because she tried to play the didgeridoo, according to ananova.com

The Oscar winner blew into the traditional instrument while promoting her latest film Australia on a German television show.

Co-star Hugh Jackman laughed and danced on one leg while she played during their appearance. But Kidman's performance upset members of the Aboriginal community, who say she should know that the didgeridoo is taboo for women.

"People are going to see Nicole playing it and think it's all right," actor, screenwriter and Aboriginal language teacher Richard Green told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"It bastardises our culture. I will guarantee she has no more children," he said.

"It is not meant to be played by women as it will make them barren."

The actress gave birth to her first child Sunday Rose in July at the age of 41, after marrying country singer Keith Urban in 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

HELLO!

Hot shot of the week

ANDREA SAVINI/HELLO! CANADA

Fashion designer extraordinaire Roberto Cavalli recently invited HELLO! into his opulent home in Florence, Italy, for a festive family celebration. Cavalli (at back) stands proudly with his children, their spouses and grandchildren; wife Eva is pictured sitting middle left. "Christmas is one of the few occasions we're all together," she says.

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands – read more at hellomagazine.ca

Gosling still loves McAdams: Source

LOVE Ryan Gosling is still in love with Rachel McAdams, imdb.com reports. The pair — who met on the set of romantic movie The Notebook — split in November but friends say the actor can't get over Rachel.

A source said: "Ryan is still close to the McAdams family and he still speaks to Rachel, but they are both openly single. He still loves Rachel, and she still loves him, but the timing is off and they can't make each other happy right now."

The 32-year-old actress is currently in London filming Guy Ritchie's new project Sherlock Holmes, while Gosling is busy working on a new career in music.

The source said: "Ryan is completely focused on putting out his album. He is spending a lot of time in the recording studio."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson's son prefers classic to modern rock

MUSIC Kate Hudson's four-year-old son Ryder is already developing a taste for classic rock — shunning contemporary artists to listen to tracks by Chuck Berry and The Beatles, imdb.com reports.

The youngster — whose father is Hudson's ex-husband Chris Robinson — is not a fan of modern music, much to his mother's delight.

Hudson says, "Ryder is such a smart boy. He is really into music right now. He really loves Chuck Berry and The Beatles. He likes to dance to Chuck Berry. Earlier on I said as a joke, 'Who's your favourite Backstreet Boy, Ryder?' And he goes, 'Well I like The Beach Boys.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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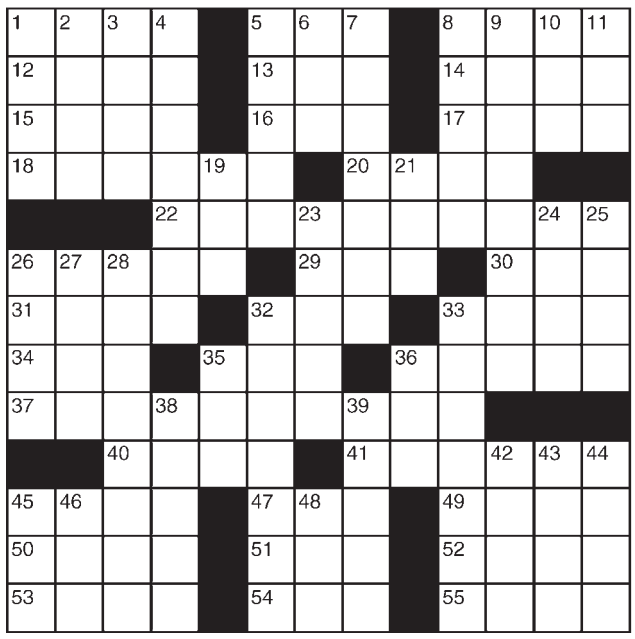

Crossword across

1 Spill the beans
5 Foundation
8 Military hat
12 Volcanic outflow
13 Listening device
14 The yoke's on them
15 Leave out
16 Actress McClanahan
17 Ollie's pal
18 Hole
20 "The Lion King" villain
22 Stenciling process
26 Struck
29 Started the trick
30 Chinese chairman
31 Possess
32 Accomplished
33 "West Side Story" gang
34 Compass dir.
35 Haw's partner
36 — willow
37 Hollywood audition
40 Small pie
41 Fungal growth
45 Anything but that
47 Little devil
49 Met melody
50 Not the whole amount
51 Perched
52 — a soul
53 Banana castoff
54 Take a whack at
55 Coloring agents

Crossword down

1 United nations
2 Tibetan priest
3 Tel follower
4 Soft, sheer fabric
5 Emerald, for one
6 Perfume label word
7 Clad
8 Noted Cleveland QB Bernie
9 Radical degrees
10 Pod occupant
11 Hostel
19 Dead heat
21 Sent duplicates of e-mail
23 Austrian painter Gustav
24 Dines on
25 Inquisitive
26 "— Like the Wind"
27 Not fem.
28 It follows 19-Down
32 He looks down in the mouth
33 North Sea peninsula
35 Part of H.R.H.
36 Omega preceder
38 Art support
39 Void
42 Wagon
43 Green acres
44 Methods
45 Recipe meas.
46 Weeding tool
48 Scratch the surface

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8	7				5	6		
2			1	6				4
					3	1		
		3		9				7
	2						1	
5				7		2		
		4	9					
7				1	8			6
		9	2				8	5

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

			S	T	Y			F	D	A				
		F	A	R	O		C	L	A	M	P			
A	I	L	E	D		H	O	N	O	R	S			
B	R	O	K	E	H	I	S	C	R	O	W	N		
E	E	N		L	A	P	S	E		M	O	O		
			H	E	R	S			C	O	R	N		
	S	P	I	R	E		M	O	U	S	E			
B	U	R	T			D	I	C	E					
A	N	I		C	R	A	N	E		S	H	Y		
T	U	M	B	L	I	N	G	A	F	T	E	R		
	P	E	R	U	S	E		N	O	R	M	S		
		S	E	E	K	S		I	R	I	S			
			D	D	S			C	A	P				

8	7	9	6	1	2	3	5	4
3	5	1	9	4	7	2	6	8
6	4	2	8	3	5	7	1	9
5	1	8	4	7	3	9	2	6
2	3	6	5	9	1	4	8	7
7	9	4	2	6	8	5	3	1
1	6	7	3	5	4	8	9	2
4	8	3	1	2	9	6	7	5
9	2	5	7	8	6	1	4	3

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chili Steak with Texas Toasts

INGREDIENTS:
2 tsp (10 mL) ground cumin
1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) chili powder
3/4 tsp (4 mL) oregano
3/4 tsp (4 mL) salt
1/2 tsp (2 mL) black pepper
2/3 cup (150 mL) spicy vegetable juice
3 tbsp (45 mL) fresh lime juice
2 cups (500 mL) frozen corn, thawed
2 scallions, thinly sliced
1 small red bell pepper, seeded and diced
12 oz (375 g) well-trimmed flank steak
1 loaf (8 oz/250 g) Italian bread, halved horizontally, then halved crosswise
1 garlic clove, peeled and halved

METHOD:
1. Stir together cumin, chili powder, oregano, salt and black pepper in small bowl. Place vegetable juice and lime juice in measuring cup. Measure out 2 1/2 tsp (12 mL) spice mixture and stir into vegetable–lime juice mixture.
2. Combine corn, scallions, red pepper and 1/2 cup (125 mL) of vegetable–lime juice mixture in medium bowl. Stir to combine. Refrigerate until serving time.
3. Preheat broiler. Rub remaining 1 tbsp (15 mL) spice mixture onto both sides of steak. Broil flank steak 4 inches (10 cm) from heat until medium, about 4 minutes per side. Remove steak but leave broiler on. Let steak stand 10 minutes before thinly slicing across the grain, on the diagonal.
4. Meanwhile, broil bread, cut–side up, until lightly toasted, about 30 seconds. Rub bread on toasted side with cut garlic. Brush toasted side with remaining vegetable–lime juice mixture and broil until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Serve steak with corn relish and toasts.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Think carefully about a wacky remark. Confusion can result from feeling passionate. A grand gesture shows a deep understanding of the truth.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Something has finally been finished. You'll want to spill the beans about the facts. A safe bet is best for super benefits.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Good things come to those who research well. An underdog finds the key to success. An irritating expert ignores your feelings.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An ally will object to a lack of discipline. An expert's insight will be rationalized. Demanding respect could cause a problem.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Denial is an issue for someone with a bad condition. Don't dwell on making last-minute plans. A disgruntled relative will complain.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A daft girl will say some flippant things. A friend is secretive about misbehaving. You'll thrive after moving ahead in love.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't give anyone an excuse to offer you a treat. Amazing information will take on greater significance. You can admit that you were wrong.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't gasp at what happened in the past. Say nice things about someone's habits. A confidante will give a pep talk.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Don't despair about a bad state of affairs. All freethinkers will resist oppression. A tiny tyrant will steer clear of the truth.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't give orders to a returning friend. Significant memories will be unreliably reported. Grimy surroundings are the result of chaos.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Try to make a move without delay. You can find a way to break loose. Be more dynamic and less skeptical.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Opinionated conversations can cause you to shiver with dread. Family secrets cause distress. A practical person witnesses a catastrophe.

This day in history

DEC. 18, 1642: Abel Tasman becomes first European to land in New Zealand.
DEC. 18, 1777: The United States celebrates its first Thanksgiving, celebrating the recent victory by the Americans over Gen. John Burgoyne in the Battle of Saratoga in October.
DEC. 18, 1932: The Chicago Bears defeat the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in the first ever NFL Championship Game. Due to a blizzard, the game was moved from Wrigley Field to the Chicago Stadium.
DEC. 18, 1996: The Oakland, Calif., school board passes a resolution officially declaring "Ebonics" a language or dialect.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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†Odds are approximately 1 in 5. All inquiries, if any, on the "odds of winning" are to be made to the licensee prior to the purchase of ticket(s). Only 260,000 tickets will be sold. Tickets are $100 each or 3 for $250. The total value of all prizes is $10,204,785.65 inclusive of all taxes and freight. Tickets must be purchased in Ontario. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. For a complete listing of the prize pool, the rules and regulations and the draw details, see our full brochure or visit our website at lottery.cancer.ca. Lottery Licence Number 920.
*Includes all taxes and freight. Prizes may not be exactly as shown.

HYUNDAI™

BOXING WEEK SALES BLITZ

SAVE WITH UP TO $4,000 IN CASH PURCHASE ADJUSTMENTS

$750 WITH PURCHASE OR LEASE OF 2008 VERACRUZ OR AZERA▼

DECEMBER 20TH - 31ST

SEE YOUR DEALER FOR MORE GREAT HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Limited model shown

2009 Elantra L

Leasing an Elantra just got **SMARTER**

Lease from **$186**** at **2.9%** Nominal Lease Rate

per mo./48 mos. $2,043 Down Payment (D&D Incl.)

Accent. "Most Dependable Sub-Compact Car in the U.S." -J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES©

THE PRICE OF DEPENDABILITY IS SURPRISINGLY AFFORDABLE.

2009 Accent L 3Dr

Starting from **$9,995**♦

Cash Purchase Price

$3,600 Cash Purchase Adjustment

Or lease from **$169**** at **1.9%** Nominal Lease Rate

per mo./60 mos. $1,275 Down Payment (D&D Incl.)

For info. only **12.07%****

Effective lease rate for 60 mos.

GL Sport model shown

Limited model shown

The redesigned 2009 Sonata GL

Starting from **$17,995**♦

Cash Purchase Price

$4,000 Cash Purchase Adjustment

Or lease from **$244**** at **0%** Nominal Lease Rate

per mo./48 mos. $3,241 Down Payment (D&D Incl.)

For info. only **8.09%****

Effective lease rate for 48 mos.

Limited model shown

2009 Santa Fe GL

Lease from **$289**** at **4.1%** Nominal Lease Rate

per mo./48 mos. $4,375 Down Payment (D&D Incl.)

25th Anniversary Edition shown

2009 Tucson 25th Anniversary Edition

A $2,500 VALUE FOR NO CHARGE

INCLUDES:

• **Power Sunroof** • **In-dash Garmin™ Navigation System**
• Premium Kenwood Sound System • Body Colour Exterior Mirrors

Lease from **$257**** at **4.1%** Nominal Lease Rate

per mo./60 mos. $3,221 Down Payment (D&D Incl.)

THE **SMART** PLACE TO SHOP THIS HOLIDAY.

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5 YEAR /100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††
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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Cash purchase price adjustments are for cash purchases only and are calculated against the lease/finance starting price. Cash purchase price adjustments are available on all 2009 Accent 3 Dr. L of $3,600/2009 Sonata of $4,000. Cash purchase prices for models shown: 2009 Accent GL Sport/2009 Sonata Limited of $15,695/$27,495. Delivery and Destination charges of ($1,345/$1,415), registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. **Lease offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2009 Elantra L 5-speed/2009 Accent L 3Dr 5-speed/2009 Sonata GL I4 5-speed/2009 Sonata GL I4 5-speed with an effective lease rate of 2.9%/1.9%/0%/4.1%/4.1%. Nominal lease rates are based on interest charges only. Monthly payment is $186/$169/$244/$289/$257 per month for a 48/60/48/48/60 month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $2,043/$1,275/$3,241/$4,375/$3,221 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $10,971/$11,415/$14,953/$18,247/$18,641. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination ($1,345/$1,415/$1,610/$1,610). Applicable licence fees, insurance, registration, PPSA ($45), and taxes are excluded. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.10/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Effective lease rates are partially based on the cash purchase adjustment foregone by leasing a new 2009 Accent L 3Dr/2009 Sonata GL I4 5-speed with an effective lease rate of 12.07%/8.09% for 60/48 months. ▼Between December 20th and December 31st, 2008, receive $750 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2008 Veracruz or Azera at participating Ontario Hyundai dealers. ▼◆**Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. ΩHyundai Accent received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact multi-activity vehicles in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study℠. Study based on responses from over 52,000 orginal U.S. owners of 2005 model-year vehicles, measuring more than 250 models. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in January to April 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.